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MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 20, 2008

Ms Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Re: **Environmental/Historic Report and Required Certification for Docket No.
AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X), Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc.—
Abandonment Exemption—In Sumter County, Florida**

Dear Secretary Quinlan:

Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. intends on filing a Notice of Exemption for the above-referenced proposed abandonment any time on or after March 11, 2008. Enclosed for the above-referenced Abandonment Exemption are the following, which are required by 49 C.F.R. Part 1105:

1. The Environmental/Historical Report;
2. The transmittal letter that accompanied the reports; and
3. A certificate demonstrating compliance with the requirements of 49 C.F.R. Part 1105.

As shown in the Environmental Report, the Florida State Clearinghouse concluded that the proposed abandonment is consistent with Florida's Coastal Management Program.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney

Enclosures.

February 20, 2008

**Re: Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc.—Notice of Exemption for
Abandonment—In Sumter County, Florida—Docket AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**

To Whom It May Concern:

Any time on or after March 11, 2008, Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon a railroad line located between milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood and milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, a distance of 4 miles, in Sumter County, Florida. Enclosed is an Environmental/Historic Report describing the proposed action and any expected environmental and historical effects, as well as a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the STB's independent environmental and historical analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the STB's environmental and historic review process, please contact their Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), at the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001, (202) 245-0335, and refer to the above docket number.

FMID will file the Environmental/Historic Report with the STB on or about February 20, 2008. Because the applicable statutes and regulations impose stringent deadlines for processing this action, your written comments to the STB (with a copy to the undersigned) would be appreciated within three weeks. Your comments will be considered by the STB in evaluating the environmental and historical impact of the contemplated action.

If there are any questions concerning this proposal, please contact the undersigned directly at (312) 252-1511 or by mail at the above address.

Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company, Inc.

Enclosures.

BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DOCKET NO AB-325 (SUB-NO. 4X)

FLORIDA MIDLAND RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.
– ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832
(312) 252-1500

**ATTORNEY FOR FLORIDA MIDLAND
RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.**

Dated: February 20, 2008

**BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD**

DOCKET NO. AB-325 (SUB-NO. 4X)

**FLORIDA MIDLAND RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.
-- ABANDONMENT EXEMPTION --
IN SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA**

ENVIRONMENTAL/HISTORIC REPORT

Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. ("FMID") submits this Environmental/Historic Report in compliance with the reporting requirements of 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7 and 1105.8. Supporting correspondence and certifications are included. It is the conclusion of this Report that the proposed abandonment, if implemented, will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(E)

1. **Proposed Action and Alternatives** FMID seeks to abandon its line of railroad, referred to herein as the "Wildwood Branch," extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, Florida. The Wildwood Branch is situated in Sumter County, Florida, and extends a total distance of approximately 4 miles. The stub-ended line is physically isolated from the remainder of FMID's lines, and has a single rail connection at Wildwood with CSX Transportation, Inc. ("CSXT").

The Wildwood Branch has no traffic on the line and this abandonment will be filed as a two-year-no-business exemption. Following abandonment, FMID intends to salvage rail from the Wildwood Branch. The railbed and subgrade of the Wildwood Branch will remain

in place and not be disturbed.¹ The Wildwood Branch was part of an earlier proposed abandonment (See, Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida, Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X), but FMID chose not to consummate it. FMID is not willing to enter into a trail agreement for this line, but instead is committed to fully consummating the abandonment.

No alternatives to the proposed abandonment have been considered. The only alternative is retention of the Wildwood Branch in its current, unused state, which would have no environmental impact.

A map showing the location of the Wildwood Branch is attached hereto as Appendix A.

2. Transportation System. FMID does not anticipate that existing regional or local transportation systems or patterns will be affected by the proposed abandonment. No rail service is currently provided on the Wildwood Branch. Former shippers on the line have access to and utilize extensive motor carrier service. Alternative rail service will continue to be available from CSXT at Wildwood, from the Florida Central Railroad Company at Tavares, and from the Florida Northern Railroad Company at Candler.² There is no overhead traffic on the line, and no passenger trains are operated over the line.

Abandonment of the Wildwood Branch will allow permanent closure of a total of 5 public grade crossings and 6 private crossings. FMID has contacted and requested comments

¹ The Wildwood Branch was previously owned and operated by CSXT. When FMID acquired the Leesburg Branch and other rail lines from CSXT in 1987, it purchased the track and track materials outright and obtained a lease of and operating rights over the underlying property. Ownership of the real estate comprising the right-of-way remained with CSXT. Florida Midland Railroad Company -- Acquisition and Operation Exemption -- Rail Lines of CSX Transportation, Inc., Finance Docket No. 31152 (ICC served November 27, 1987). Thus, FMID does not own the property underlying the Wildwood Branch.

² Florida Central and Florida Northern are FMID affiliates.

from the Florida Department of Transportation. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix B

3. Land Use

(i) FMID does not foresee any inconsistency with regional and/or local land use plans, but has contacted and requested comments from Sumter County, Florida, through which the line passes. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix C.

(ii) The Wildwood Branch is located in developed municipal areas within Wildwood and Orange Home, and is adjacent to state highways for much of the intervening distance. The Natural Resources Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture has been contacted to see if the proposed abandonment will have an adverse impact on any prime agricultural lands. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendix D. FMID does not believe the proposed abandonment will have impact on prime agricultural lands, given the geographic location of the line.

(iii) FMID understands that the entire State of Florida is a designated Coastal Zone Management Area. However, the proposed abandonment will not affect any land or water uses in the area or result in any coastal impacts. FMID contacted Florida's Coastal Program Administrator and Florida's State Clearinghouse, both within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Florida's State Clearinghouse responded that the proposed abandonment is consistent with Florida's Coastal Management Program. See, correspondence attached hereto as Appendices E and F.

(iv) FMID does not believe that the right-of-way of the Wildwood Branch is suitable for alternative public use under 49 U.S.C. § 10905. In any event, a

public use condition under Section 10905 would not be available because FMID does not own the underlying right-of-way. E.g., Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. -- Abandonment Exemption -- In Lake County, FL, Docket No AB-325X (ICC served February 2, 1990) at 2. As indicated above, FMID is not interested in a rails-to-trails conversion of the Wildwood Branch.

4. Energy.

(i) The proposed abandonment will not have any effect on the transportation of energy resources. No energy resource commodities moved over the Wildwood Branch, and FMID foresees little or no possibility that such on-line traffic will develop in the future.

(ii) The movement and/or recovery of recyclable commodities will not be adversely affected by this abandonment. No such traffic has been handled on the Wildwood Branch for many years (if ever), and FMID foresees no possibility that any on-line recyclable commodity traffic would develop in the future.

(iii) Abandonment will not result in an increase or decrease in overall energy efficiency. No freight traffic currently moves to or from the Wildwood Branch, and any prior diversions of traffic previously handled on the line to other modes or routes were minor.

(iv) Not applicable. Abandonment of the Wildwood Branch will not cause the diversion of more than 1,000 rail carloads per year or an average of 50 rail carloads per mile per year to motor carriers

5 Air.

(i) Not applicable. Abandonment will not result in (A) a minimum increase in rail traffic of 100% or eight trains per day on any segment of rail line, (B) an increase in rail yard activity of at least 100%, or (C) an average increase in truck traffic of more than 10% of the average daily traffic or 50 vehicles per day on any road segment.

(ii) Not applicable. FMID does not believe that Sumter County is a class I or nonattainment area under the Clean Air Act. In any event, abandonment of the Wildwood Branch will not result in traffic increases which exceed the thresholds specified in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(ii)(A), (B) or (C).

(iii) Not applicable. No ozone depleting materials have been transported over the Wildwood Branch for at least several years, and FMID believes that such materials were not transported over the line prior to that time. Accordingly, no shipments of ozone depleting materials will be diverted as a result of this abandonment.

FMID has contacted and requested comments from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. See correspondence attached hereto as Appendices G and H. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection responded that some threatened or endangered species may exist in the corridor (although the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission already indicated that in general the abandonment should have no impact on threatened or endangered species), and that a GIS generated linear corridor may be necessary. FMID will follow up on that.

6. Noise. Not applicable As indicated above, none of the thresholds identified in 49 C F R. § 1105.7(e)(5)(i) will be exceeded as a result of the abandonment.

7. Safety.

(i) The proposed action will have no adverse effect upon public health or safety. Abandonment of the Wildwood Branch will allow a total of 5 public and 6 private grade crossings to be eliminated. During any salvage operations on the Wildwood Branch, precautions will be taken to ensure public safety.

(ii) Not applicable. No hazardous materials have been transported on the Wildwood Branch for nearly nine years. Accordingly, the proposed abandonment will have no effect on the transportation of hazardous materials.

(iii) There are no known hazardous waste sites or sites where there have been known hazardous material spills on the right-of-way of the Wildwood Branch.

8. Biological Resources.

(i) No critical habitat will be destroyed, altered or affected as a result of the proposed abandonment, and FMID does not believe that any endangered or threatened species are present in the area or would be adversely affected. Salvage operations will be handled within the right-of-way using existing access routes, and the roadbed and subgrade of the Wildwood Branch will not be altered in connection with the abandonment. FMID has requested comments from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. See correspondence attached as Appendices G, I and J. See, 5(iii) for the response of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission in general had no concerns, but suggested that the area to be salvaged be surveyed beforehand for gopher tortoises.

(ii) The Wildwood Branch does not pass through or adjacent to any wildlife sanctuaries or refuges or any national or state parks or forests and, accordingly, none will be adversely affected. FMID has contacted and requested comments from the National Park Service, as set forth in Appendix K

9. Water. Any water quality effects of the proposed abandonment should be minimal, as there are no bridges on the Wildwood Branch and the line does not cross any bodies of water. FMID does not intend to alter the contour of the roadbed underlying the Wildwood Branch in connection with the proposed abandonment. FMID likewise does not anticipate discharge of any materials into navigable waters that would require permits under Sections 402 and 404 of the Clean Water Act.

There are no wetlands located in or along the right-of-way of the Wildwood Branch, and FMID is unaware of any 100-year floodplains that would be affected by abandonment. There are a number of small bodies of water located in the general vicinity of the Wildwood Branch, but they are generally separated from the line by existing streets or development and should not be adversely affected by the proposed abandonment.

Information on the proposed abandonment has been provided to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Southwest Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. See correspondence attached as Appendices G, I, J, L and M. See, the response of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection at 5(iii) and the response of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at 8(i). The Southwest Florida Water Management District responded that the segment may have trail

possibilities, but as already stated FMID is not interested in a rails-to-trails conversion for the Wildwood Branch.

* * * * *

In addition to the agencies referenced above, FMID also has contacted and requested comments from the Florida State Clearinghouse within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (functioning as the state single point of contact) and the National Geodetic Survey. See correspondence attached as Appendices and F and N.

As FMID foresees no adverse environmental effects from the proposed abandonment, no mitigation is proposed.

HISTORIC REPORT - 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8(D)

1. Map. A map of the Wildwood Branch is attached hereto as Appendix A.
2. Description of Line. The line to be abandoned begins at a connection with a CSXT mainline at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood and extends in a generally easterly direction a distance of approximately 4 miles to the end of track at milepost ST-766.10 near Orange-Home. Additional trackage at the east end of this segment was previously abandoned by FMID See, Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida, Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X).

The Wildwood Branch traverses older, commercial and industrial downtown areas within Wildwood, a developed area in Orange Home, and flat, rural agricultural and residential areas between those two communities. The width of the Wildwood Branch right-of-way is generally 100 feet

3. Photographs Not applicable. There are no buildings, bridges or other structures of any kind on the Wildwood Branch

4 Information on Structures. Not applicable. There are no buildings, bridges or other structures of any kind on the Wildwood Branch.

5. History of Operations. The Wildwood Branch was part of the east-west segment of the Leesburg Branch, from Wildwood to Leesburg, constructed in 1884-1885 by the Leesburg and Indian River Railroad Company and the Florida Railway and Navigation Company, both predecessors of the Seaboard Air Line Railway Company ("SAL"). The segment formed part of an SAL branch line extending from SAL's north-south central Florida main line at Wildwood to Orlando.

SAL operated their line in the Leesburg area for much of the twentieth century. In 1967, SAL and Atlantic Coast Line Railroad Company ("ACL") merged to form the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Company ("SCL"). See Seaboard Air Line R. Co. -- Merger -- Atlantic Coast Line, 320 I.C.C. 122 (1963). After SCL and the Chessie System were united under common control, see CSX Corp. -- Control -- Chessie and Seaboard C.L.I., 363 I.C.C. 521 (1980), SCL was merged with several affiliates and renamed Seaboard System Railroad, Inc. ("SBD") in 1982. SCL and SBD abandoned the portions of the former ACL line both north and south of Leesburg, and abandoned the portion of SAL's Orlando Branch extending east from Leesburg to Tavares. (The remainder of that line, from Tavares to Orlando, is today operated by Florida Central Railroad Company, an FMID affiliate.)

In 1987, FMID acquired several lines from CSXT, SBD's successor, including the Wildwood Branch. Florida Midland Railroad Company -- Acquisition and Operation Exemption -- Rail Lines of CSX Transportation, Inc., Finance Docket No. 31152 (ICC served November 27, 1987) FMID provided service on the Wildwood Branch and all the way to Leesburg from 1987 to June, 2000. As indicated above, FMID abandoned a short piece of the former ACL trackage in

Leesburg in 1990 and abandoned or converted to a trail the line east of the Wildwood Spur to Leesburg. See, Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida, Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X). No operations or maintenance are currently conducted on the Wildwood Branch, and thus no changes are anticipated as a result of this abandonment.

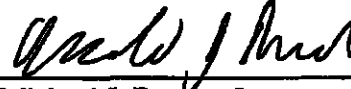
6. Engineering Documents. Not applicable. There are no structures of any kind on the Wildwood Branch.

7. Historic Criteria. Based on readily available information in its possession, FMID believes that no site or structure listed in or meeting the criteria for listing in the Natural Register of Historic Places is located on the Wildwood Branch or will be affected by the abandonment. FMID also believes that no culturally significant locations, archaeological sites or unique land forms will be affected by the abandonment. FMID has sought input from the Division of Historical Resources of the Florida Department of State. See, correspondence attached as Appendix O. In a previous abandonment the Division of Historical Resources of the Florida Department of State, in its capacity as SHPO, has confirmed that abandonment will not adversely affect any historic properties. See correspondence attached as Appendices P and P-1 to the Environmental/Historic Report for Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida, Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X).

8. Ground Disturbances. Based on readily available information in its possession, FMID believes that substantial subsurface ground disturbance occurred when the Wildwood Branch was constructed over 100 years ago. FMID is unaware of any other environmental conditions that might affect the archaeological recovery of resources. Access to the line is good.

Dated: February 20, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Barron, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for
Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc.
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)

FLORIDA MIDLAND
RAILROAD COMPANY, INC.

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION FOR
ABANDONMENT IN SUMTER COUNTY, FLORIDA

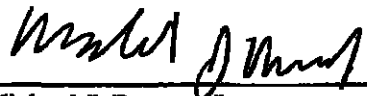
To: Ms. Anne K. Quinlan
Acting Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE WITH 49 C.F.R. PART 1105

I hereby certify that on February 20, 2008, copies of the Environmental/Historic Report for the above-captioned proceeding were served on the agencies listed at 49 C.F.R. § 1105.07(b), all agencies consulted in preparing the reports, and on the Division of Historical Resources in the Florida Department of State. A service list is attached and incorporated into this certificate as Attachment A. The reports have been sent within the time period specified, as Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. intends to file its Notice of Exemption in the above-captioned matter no earlier than March 11, 2008. All appropriate agencies as listed in 49 C.F.R. § 1105.7(e) have been consulted well in advance of preparing the Environmental Report.

I also certify that a newspaper notice was published on February 14, 2008, in the *Sumter County Times*, a newspaper of general circulation in Sumter County, Florida. The notice alerted the public to the proposed abandonment, to possible reuse alternatives, and to procedures for participating in the STB proceeding. A copy of the notice is attached to this certificate as Attachment B.

Dated this 20th of February, 2008.



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc.

ATTACHMENT A

Stephanie C. Kopelousos
Secretary of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Rail Office
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Richard Hoffman
Chairman
Sumter County Board of Commissioners
910 North Main Street
Bushnell, Florida 33513

Salvador Salinas
Acting State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources
Conservation Service
P.O. Box 141510
Gainesville, Florida 32614-1510

Lynn F. Griffin
Coastal Program Administrator
Florida Coastal Management Program
The Department of
Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Michael W. Sole
Secretary
Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 49
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator, Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Mary Ann Poole
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission
Farris Bryant Building
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

Sam Hamilton
Regional Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Atlanta, GA 30345

Rick McCleery
Ombudsman
Southwest Florida Water
Management District
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Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

David S. Hobbie
Division Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District, Regulatory Division
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Lauren P. Milligan
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National Geodetic Survey
National Oceanic and
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Frederick Gaske
Director, Division of Historical Resources
Florida Department of State
500 South Bronough Street, Suite 415
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Robin Branda
Environmental Specialist III
Office of Intergovernmental Programs
Florida Department
of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Department of the Interior
National Center for
Recreation and Conservation
National Park Service
1849 "L" Street, N.W.
Washington, D C. 20420
Attn: Chief, Land Resources Division

ATTACHMENT B

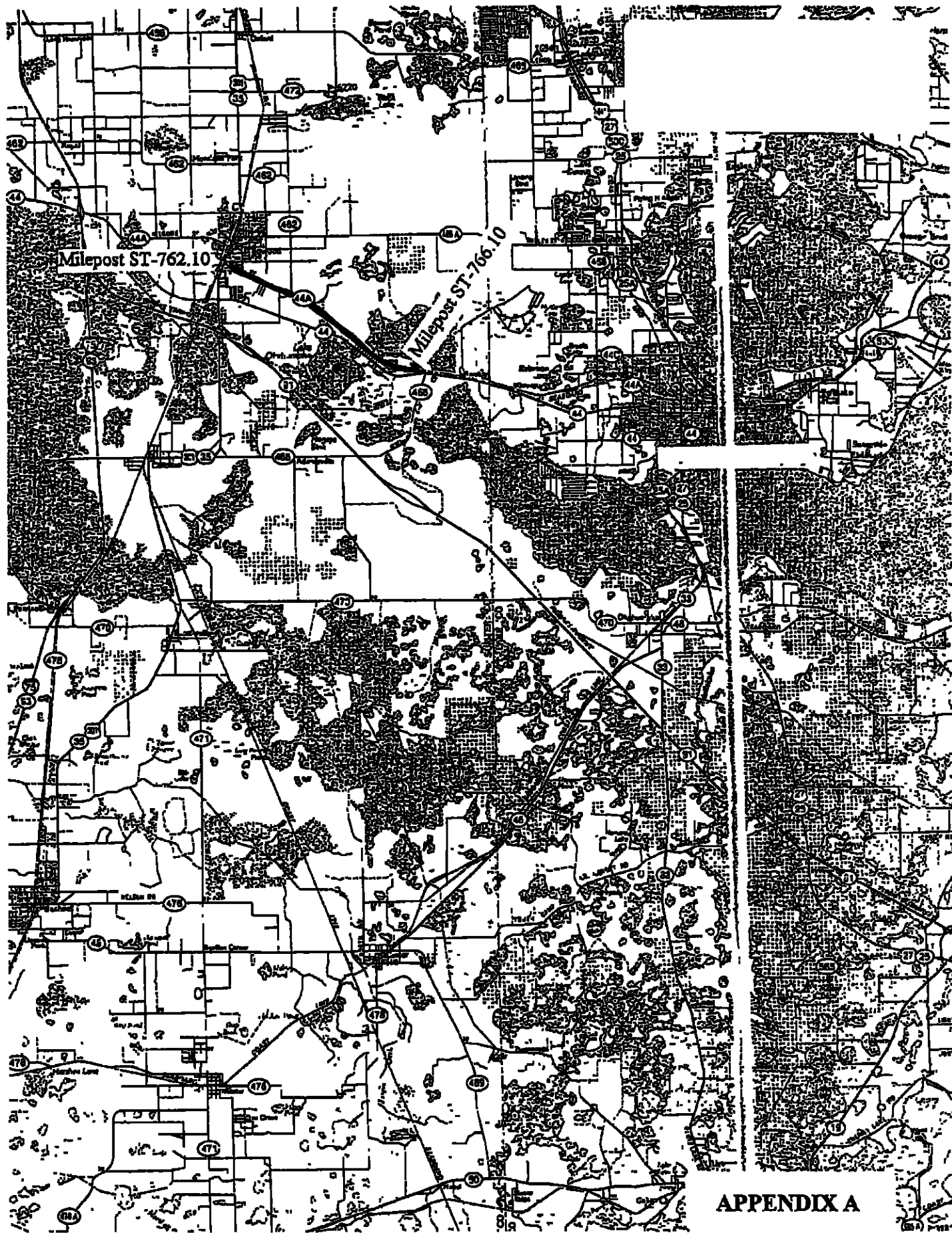
632-0207 SCT PUBLIC NOTICE

Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. gives notice that on or about March 6, 2008, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a notice of exemption under 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F—Exempt Abandonments permitting the abandonment of a four (4) mile line of railroad between railroad milepost ST-762.10, near Wildwood, and railroad milepost ST-766.10, near Orange Home, which line traverses through United States Postal Service ZIP Code 34785 in Sumter County, Florida. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB 325 (Sub-No. 4X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 25 days after the filing of the notice of exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA), Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423 or by calling that office at (202) 245-0295.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 395 E Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20423-001 [See **49 CFR 1104.1(a)** and **1104.3(a)**], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See **49 CFR 1104.12(a)**]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Congressional and Public Services at (202) 245-0230. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative. Michael J. Barron, Jr., Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Ste. 920, Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832.

Published one (1) time in the Sumter County Times,
February 14, 2008.



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

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February 1, 2008

Stephanie C. Kopelousos
Secretary of Transportation
Florida Department of Transportation
Rail Office
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0450

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Ms. Kopelousos:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

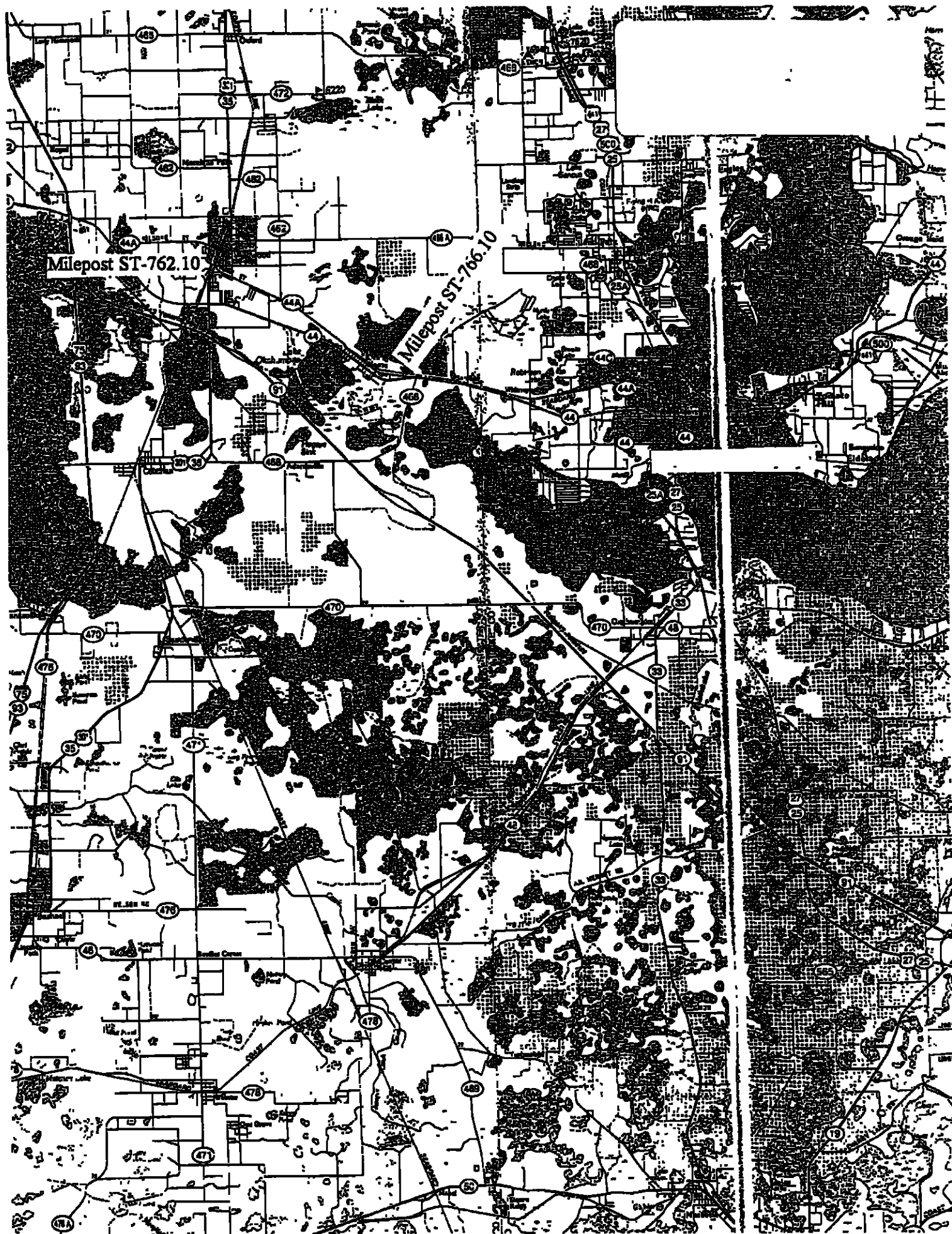
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX B



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

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Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

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Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. Robert G. Hebert, Jr.
Florida Department of Transportation
Rail Office
605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption -- In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Hebert:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Mr. Robert G. Hebert, Jr.

July 27, 2000

Page 2

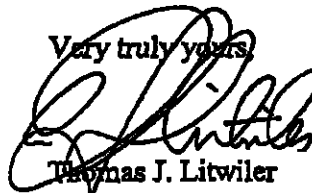
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
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Fax: (312) 252-2400
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MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Richard Hoffman
Chairman
Sumter County Board of Commissioners
910 North Main Street
Bushnell, Florida 33513

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

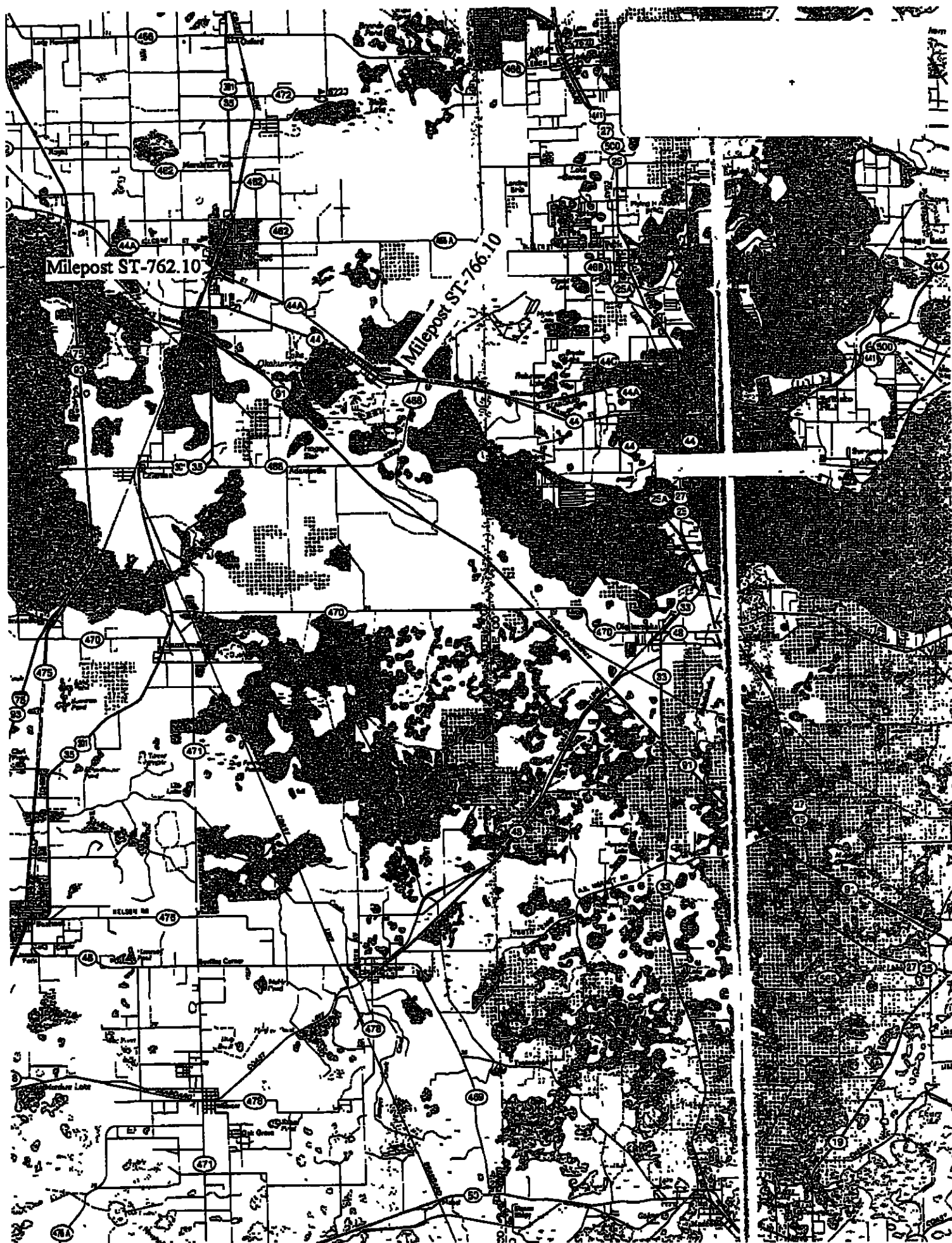
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures

APPENDIX C



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

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Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Ms. Denise Strickland
Chairwoman
Sumter County Board of Commissioners
P.O. Box 207
Wildwood, FL 34785

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Ms. Strickland:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Ms. Denise Strickland
July 27, 2000
Page 2

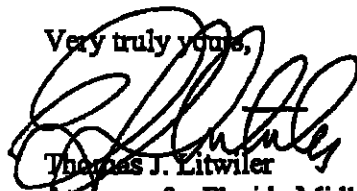
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,


Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
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www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
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mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Salvador Salinas
Acting State Conservationist
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 141510
Gainesville, Florida 32614-1510

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Salinas:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

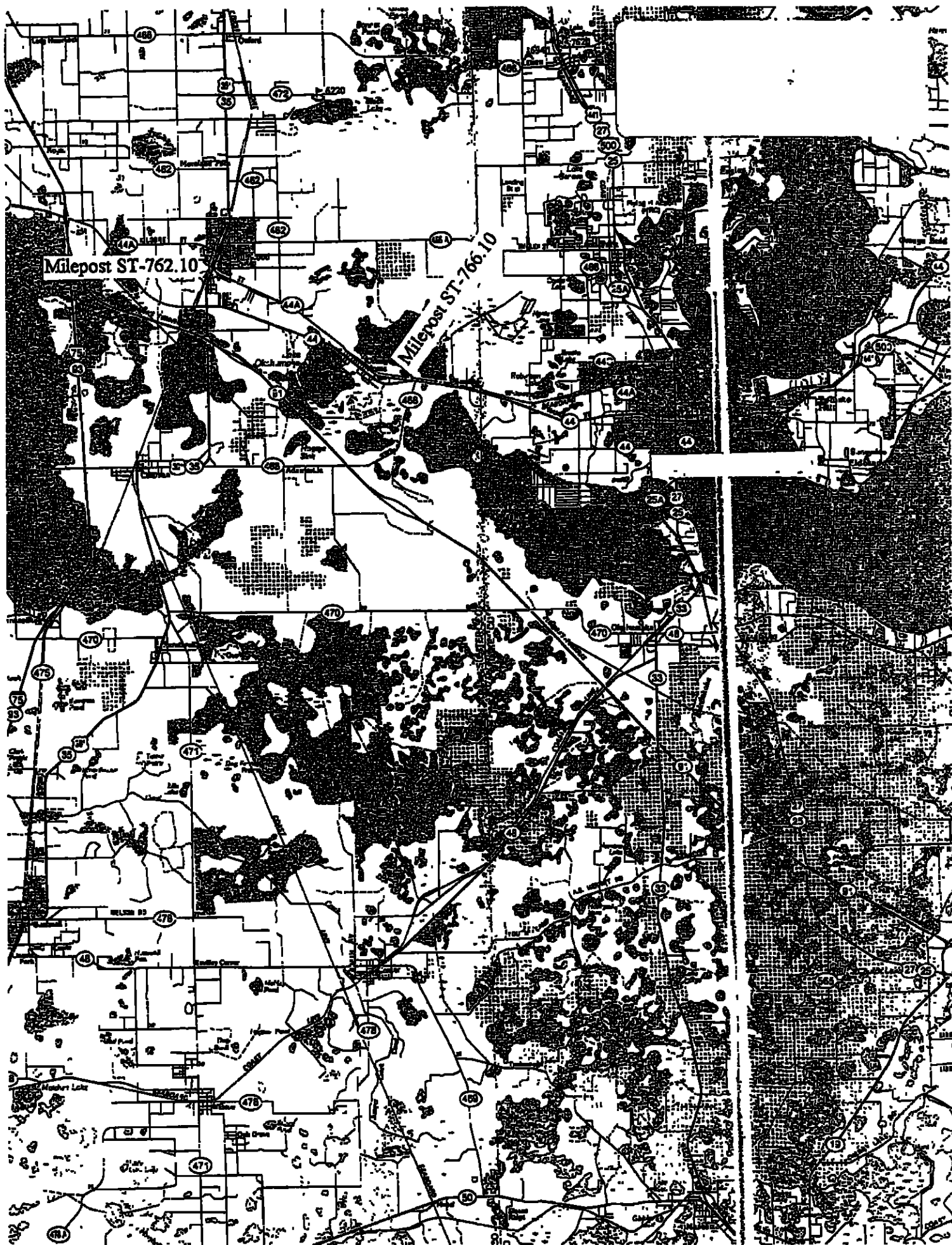
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures

APPENDIX D



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix E

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601 6721

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Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. T. Niles Glasgow
State Conservationist
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
P. O. Box 141510
Gainesville, FL 32614-1510

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company — Abandonment
Exemption — In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Glasgow:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on prime agricultural land as designated by the National Resources Conservation Service.

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

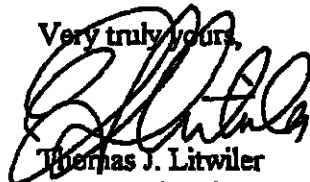
Mr. T Niles Glasgow

July 27, 2000

Page 2

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:d

Enclosure



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

2814 N.W. 43rd St.
Gainesville, Florida
32606-6611

P.O. Box 141510
Gainesville, Florida
32614-1510

Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix E-1

August 14, 2000

Mr. Thomas J. Litwiler
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

RE: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company -- Abandonment
Exemption -- In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Litwiler:

We have reviewed the proposed abandonment for the
referenced Docket No. and determined that there
will not be any effect on agricultural land within
the project area.

Please feel free to contact us if there are further
questions.

Sincerely,

Warren Henderson

Warren G. Henderson
State Soil Scientist

cc: Calvin Hubbard, DC, Tavares Service Center
Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
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MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Lynn F. Griffin
Coastal Program Administrator
Florida Coastal Management Program
The Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., MS 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Lynn:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

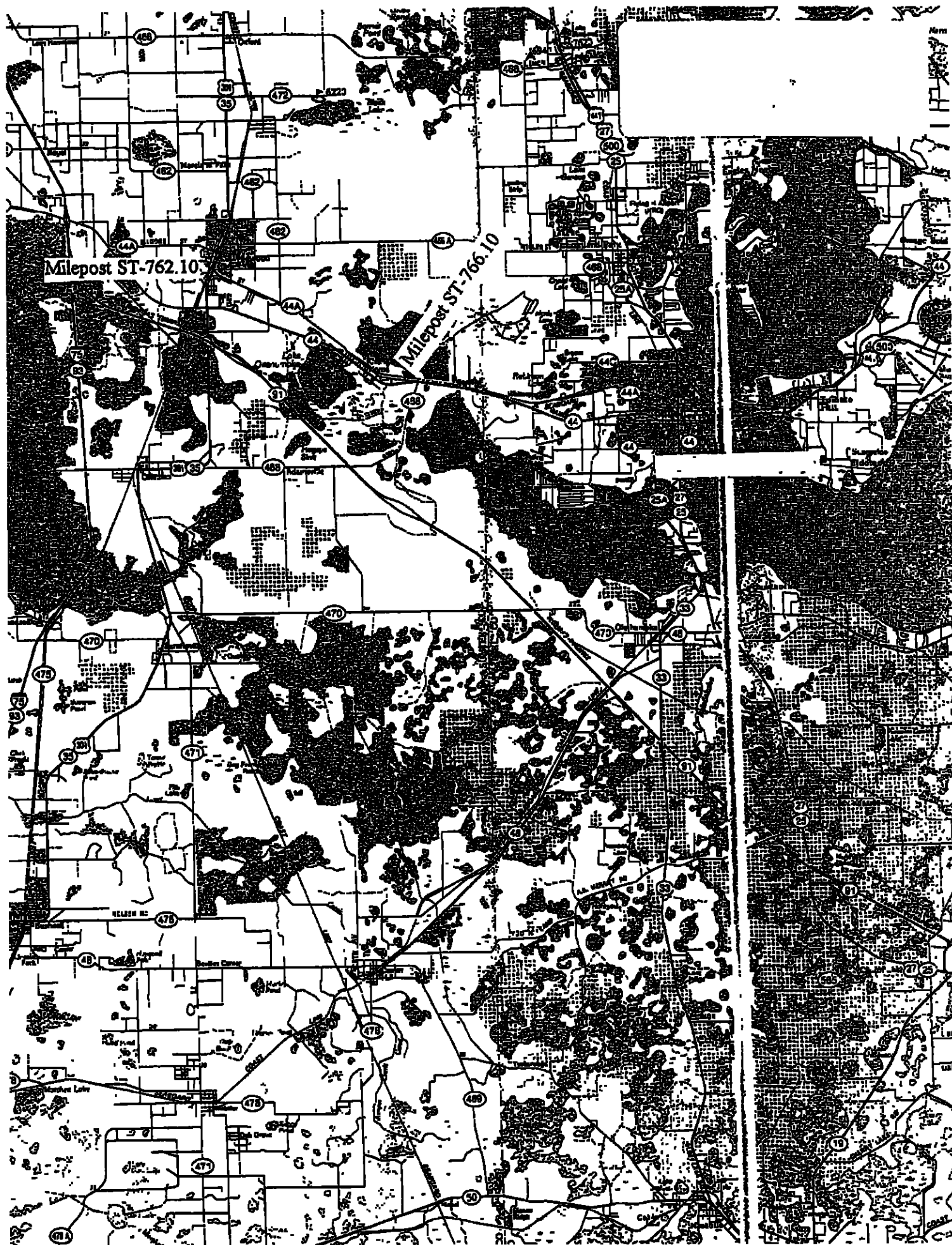
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX E



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix F

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone (312) 540-0500
Fax (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. Ralph Cantral
Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program
Florida Department of Community
Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Cantral:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Mr. Ralph Cantral
July 27, 2000
Page 2

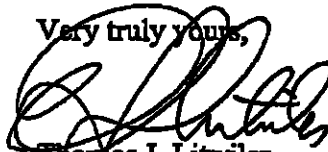
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix F-1

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

JEB BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

October 11, 2000

Mr. Thomas J. Litwiler
Fletcher & Sippel
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

RE: Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and
Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of Intent to File
Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) - Sumter and
Lake Counties, Florida
SAI: FL200008280616C

Dear Mr. Litwiler:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

Based on the information contained in the notification of intent and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program.

In addition, comments received from the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, noting that the project is consistent with its Strategic Regional Policy Plan, are enclosed for your review and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this notification. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 414-5495.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

Enclosures

cc: Vivian Whitter, Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: 850 488 8466/Surcom 278 8466 FAX: 850 921 0781/Surcom 291 0781
Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

CRITICAL STATE CONCERN FIELD OFFICE
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212
Marathon, FL 33050-2227

COMMUNITY PLANNING
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

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MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.

(312) 252-1511

mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Lauren P. Milligan
Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd.
Mail Station 47
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Ms. Milligan:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

Sincerely,

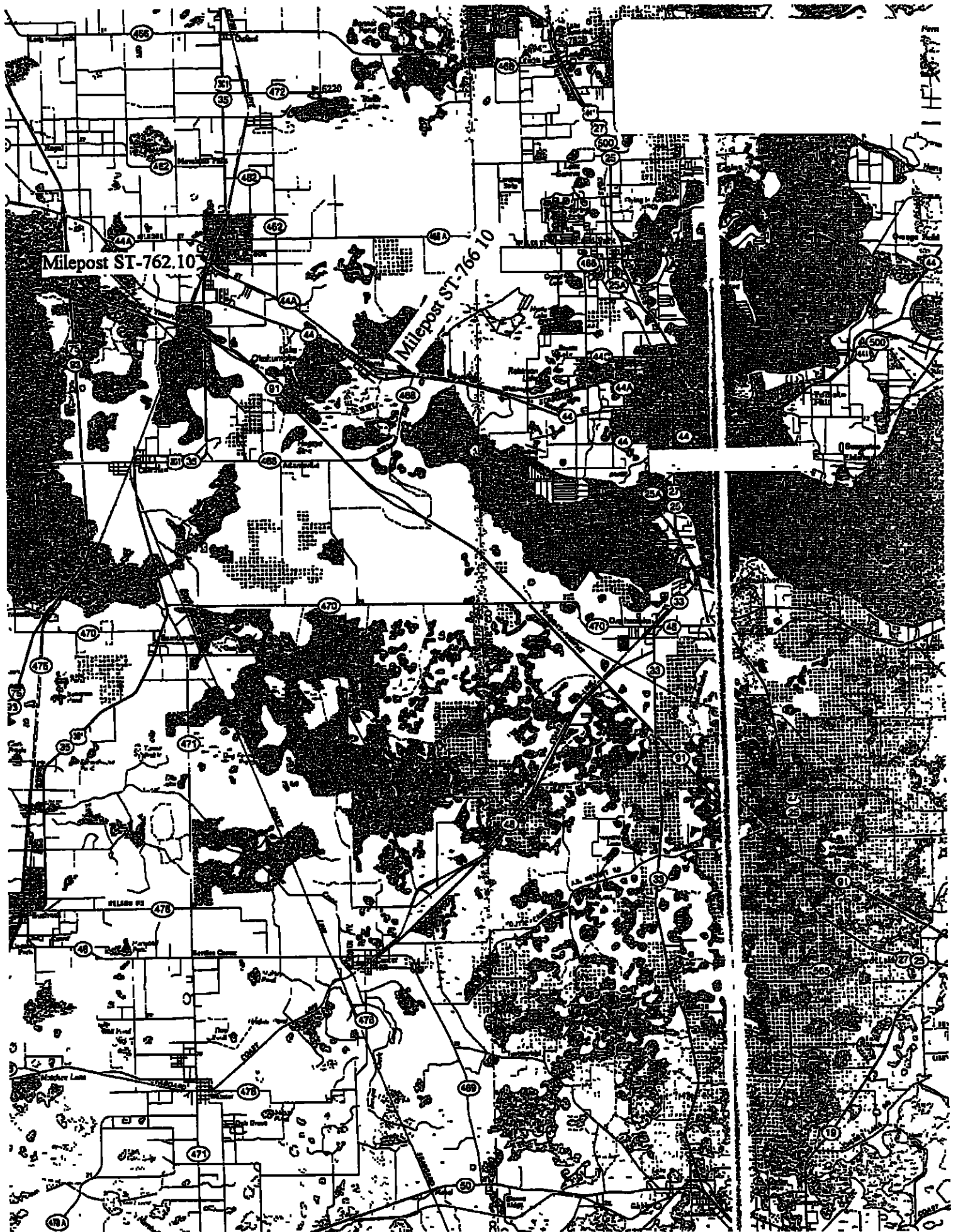


Michael J. Barron, Jr.

Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX F



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prucential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

Phone: (312) 540-0500
Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Coordinator, Florida State Clearinghouse
Florida Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Ms. Trainor:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Ms. Cherie Trainor

July 27, 2000

Page 2

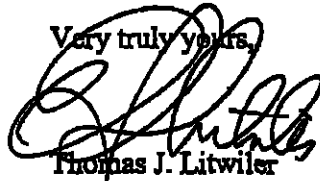
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix N-1

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

JES BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

October 4, 2000

Mr. Thomas J. Litwiler
Fletcher & Sippel
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

RE: Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and
Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of Intent to
File Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket No. AB-324 (Sub-No. 2X) -
Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida
SAI: FL200008100568C

Dear Mr. Litwiler:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372,
Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-
1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335,
4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) offers several comments regarding
the proposed project. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) databases and maps indicate
that endangered, threatened, or rare species are found nearby. FNAI recommends that a site-
specific survey be conducted to determine the current presence or absence of listed species. In
addition, the applicants will need to submit to DEP's Southwest District office a GIS-generated
linear corridor so that it can verify the occurrence of any possible identified hazardous waste
sites. DEP's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) has expressed interest in working with
Sumter and Lake Counties in pursuing acquisition of the abandoned railroad corridor as a rails-
to-trails project. A petition recently filed by the Florida Midland Railroad Company indicates
that the company is also willing to explore this possibility. Please refer to the enclosed DEP
comments.

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone: 850.488.8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX: 850.921.0781/Suncom 291.0781
Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

FLORIDA STATE CONCERN FIELD OFFICE
10 Overseas Highway, Suite 212
Ft. Myers, FL 33906-3227

COMMUNITY PLANNING
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Thomas J. Litwiler
October 4, 2000
Page Two

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) notes that, for the portion of the proposed abandonment within SJRWMD's area, any wetlands adjacent to the Leesburg Branch should be protected from disturbance, sedimentation and encroachment during the removal of the rail and track materials. For specific information regarding permitting, the applicant should contact the SJRWMD's Orlando Service Center. Please refer to the enclosed SJRWMD comments.

Based on the information contained in the notification of intent and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program.

In addition, the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (WRPC) has identified the policies and goals of its Strategic Regional Policy Plan which may apply to the proposed activity. The comments provided by the WRPC are enclosed for your review and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the notification. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 414-5495.

Sincerely,



Ralph Cantral, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

Enclosures

cc: Kate Muldoon, Department of Environmental Protection
B. Kraig McLane, St. Johns River Water Management District
Vivian Whittier, Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council
Surface Transportation Board

AUG-14-2000 15:25

FL DEPT AGRIC & CONS

853 488 0863 P.05

TY: State

DATE: 08/10/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/08/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 09/18/2000

SAI#: FL200008100568C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
H&M
State
Transportation

Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida
Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized
the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are
required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's
concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production
Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a
consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such
projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an
analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board -
Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment -
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification
of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment
Exemption - Docket No. AB-324 (Sub-No. 2X) -
Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties,
Florida.

(cc STB on letter)

Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

- ☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Jack P. Dadd, Planner
Division of Forestry
Forest Resource Planning
& Support Services Bureau
3125 Conner Blvd., Mail Stop C23
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1850

Division/Bureau: _____

Reviewer: _____

Date: _____

9-5-00



Jeb Bush
 Governor

Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

18 September 2000

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ms. Cherie Trainor
State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: U.S. Department of Transportation/Notification of Intent to File Petition for
Abandoning the Wildwood to Leesburg Branch of the Florida Midland
Railroad Company, Sumter and Lake Counties
SAI: FL200008100568C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has completed its review of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Notification of Intent to File a Petition for Abandoning the Wildwood to Leesburg Branch of the Florida Midland Railroad Company, in Sumter and Lake Counties. We find the project to be consistent with our authorities in the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program. The Department offers the following comments:

The railroad corridor proposed to be abandoned extends for approximately 13.23 miles between Lake Deaton and wetlands emptying into Lake Denham. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) databases and maps (see attached) indicate that endangered, threatened, or rare species such as the bald eagle, indigo snake, and Florida pine snake are also found nearby. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) has also identified numerous breeding bird colonies within one mile of the current railroad corridor. FNAI recommends that a site specific survey be conducted to determine the current presence or absence of listed species. In addition, the applicant will need to submit to the DEP Southwest District office a GIS-generated linear corridor so that they can verify the occurrence of any possible identified hazardous waste sites.

The Department's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) has expressed interest in working with Sumter and Lake Counties in pursuing acquisition of the abandoned railroad corridor as a rails-to-trails project. A petition recently filed by the Florida Midland Railroad Company indicates that the company is also willing to explore this possibility. The OGT contacts for Lake and Sumter Counties are Lindsey Benedict, and Marsha Rickman, respectively. Both can be contacted at 850/488-3701 concerning the greenways and trails acquisition process.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. If you require additional information, please contact me at 7-2231, ext. 111.

Sincerely,



Kate Muldoon

Office of Intergovernmental Programs

/kam

cc: file

Marsha Rickman

Lindsey Benedict

Dianne McCommons-Beck

State

fel

DATE: 08/10/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/08/2000
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 09/18/2000
SAI#: FL200008100568C

STATE AGENCIES

Culture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
HED
State
Transportation

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

OPB POLICY UNITS

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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AUG 23 2000

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AUG 14 2000

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Project Description:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board -
Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment -
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification
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Exemption - Docket No AB-324 (Sub-No. 2X) -
Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties,
Florida.

(cc STB on letter)

Florida State Clearinghouse

Department of Community Affairs

2955 Shumard Oak Boulevard

Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)

(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

- ☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Division/Bureau

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Reviewer:

BRIAN BARNETT

COUNTY: State

Message:

DATE: 08/10/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/08/2000
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 09/18/2000
SAI#: FL200008100568

STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
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Transportation

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida WMD
St Johns River WMD

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Environmental Policy/C & ED

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Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties,
Florida.

(cc STB on letter)

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Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
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EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau:

E.C.C./OTTED

Reviewer:

MS/akule



An Equal
Opportunity
Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office
7801 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)
SUNCOM 578-2070

Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)
SUNCOM 572-6200

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34609 6899
(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)
SUNCOM 628-4150 TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)
World Wide Web. <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Venice Service Office
115 Corporation Way
Venice, Florida 34292-3524
(941) 486-1212 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)
SUNCOM 526-6900

Lecanto Service Office
3600 West Sovereign Path
Suite 226
Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070
(352) 527-8131
SUNCOM 667-3271

September 8, 2000

Ms. Cherle Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

Subject: Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket Number AB-324 (Sub-Number 2X) - Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties
SA#: FL200008100568C

Dear Ms. Trainor

The staff of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has conducted a consistency evaluation for the project referenced above. Consistency findings are divided into four categories and are based solely on the information provided in the subject application.

FINDING	CATEGORY
x	Consistent/No Comment
	Consistent/Comments Attached
	Inconsistent/Comments Attached
	Consistency Cannot be Determined Without an Environmental Assessment Report/Comments Attached

This review does not constitute permit approval under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, or any rules promulgated thereunder, nor does it stand in lieu of normal permitting procedures in accordance with Florida Statutes and District rules.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in the District's Planning Department at extension 4421

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Quinn
Government Planning Coordinator

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ronald C. Johnson
Chair, Lake Wales
Monroe "Al" Coogler
Vice Chair, Lecanto
Sally Thompson
Secretary, Tampa
Ronnie E. Duncan
Treasurer, Tarpon Springs
Thomas G. Debnay, II
Sarasota
Pamela L. Fontress
Lake Placid
John P. Hardee, IV
Bradenton
Watson L. Haynes, II
St. Petersburg
John K. Renke, III
New Port Richey

E. D. "Sonny" Vergara
Executive Director
Gene A. Heath
Assistant Executive Director
William S. Ellenky
General Counsel

Henry Dean, Executive Dir
John R. Wehle, Assistant Executive Dir

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

POST OFFICE BOX 1429

TELEPHONE 904-329-4500

TDD 904-329-4480

FAX (Executive) 329-4125

(Legal) 329-4485

PALATKA, FLORIDA 32178-14

1-800-451-7108

SUNCOM 904-880-4500

TDD SUNCOM 880-4450

(Permitting) 329-4315

(Administration/Finance) 329-4

SERVICE CENTERS

818 E. South Street
Orlando, Florida 32801
407-887-4300
1-877-329-1459
FAX 407-887-4854
TDD 407-887-8960

7775 Baymeadows Way
Suite 102
Jacksonville, Florida 32256
904-730-6270
1-800-888-1563
FAX 904-730-6287
TDD 904-448-7900

PERMITTING
305 East Drive
Melbourne, Florida 32904
407-884-4940
1-800-289-3254
FAX 407-722-4387
TDD 407-722-4368

OPERATIONS
2133 N. Wickham Road
Melbourne, Florida 32935-4
407-758-3130
TDD 407-758-3102

August 29, 2000

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

Re: SAI #: FL200008100564C OPP #: 1735

Name of Project: Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Co. - Notification of Intent to File a Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket No.: AB-324 (Sub-N0. 2X) - Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

Dear Ms. Trainor:

Selected staff of the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) have reviewed the above referenced project and offer the following comments regarding the District's areas of responsibility which include water quality, water supply, flood protection, and natural systems.

For the portion of the proposed abandonment within SJRWMD's area, any wetlands adjacent to the Leesburg Branch should be protected from disturbance, sedimentation and encroachment during the removal of the rail and track materials.

For specific information concerning permitting, the applicant should contact SJRWMD's Orlando Service Center at (407) 897-4300.

If you have any questions about our comments, please contact me at (904) 329-4374.

Sincerely,

B. Craig McLane, AICP, Assistant Director
Office of Policy and Planning

EJ/REG

William Kerr, CHAIRMAN
MELBOURNE BEACH

Onetrias D. Long, VICE CHAIRMAN
APOPKA

Jeff K. Jennings, SECRETARY
MANTLAND

Duane Ottenstroer, TREASURER
SWITZERLAND

Don Roach
DAYTONA BEACH

William M. Segal
MANTLAND

Otis Mason
ST. AUGUSTINE

Clay Albright
EAST LAKE WEIR

Reic Hughes
DAYTONA BEACH

State

Page:

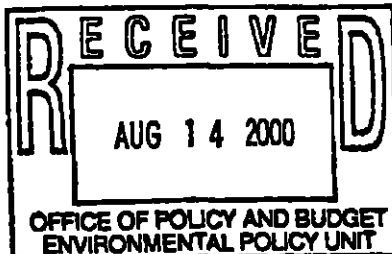
DATE: 08/10/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/08/2000
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 09/18/2000
SAI#: FL200008100568C

STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
NOTED
State
Transportation

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD



OPB POLICY UNITS

X Environmental Policy/C & ED

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AUG 17 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized by the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.

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Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket No. AB-324 (Sub-No 2X) - Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

(cc STB on letter)

Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

☐ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau:

EOG. Off Env Policy

LINDA S. SLOAN, A.I.C.P.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1241 S.W. 10th Street
OCALA, FLORIDA 34474-2798

Telephone 352/732-1315
Suncom 867-1315
FAX 732-1318
email: wrpc@atlantic.net



OFFICERS

EUGENE A. POOLE
CHAIRMAN

WILBUR DEAN
VICE-CHAIRMAN

ROGER BATCHELOR
SECRETARY

September 7, 2000

Ms. Cherie Trainor, Coordinator
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

SUBJECT: SAI #: FL200008100568C
Florida Midland Railroad Company
NOI - Abandonment Exemption, Dkt. #: AB-325(Sub-No. 2X)
Leesburg Branch: Sumter and Lake Counties, FL
WRPC ICR #: 68-S8-00-FMRR

Dear Ms. Trainor:

Pursuant to the provisions of Presidential Executive Order 12372, Governor's Executive Order 95-359, and WRPC Rules Ch. 29E-6, *FAC*, the staff of the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council reviewed the above-referenced proposal and find it to be consistent with the goals and policies of the WRPCs adopted *Strategic Regional Policy Plan for the Withlacoochee Region*. Applicant should be aware of the following goals and policies which may be applicable to this project:

Goal 4.8: Avoid adverse impacts to the natural functions of the region's wetlands or surface water systems from development and redevelopment.

Policy 4.8.1: Coordinate regulatory programs to ensure that the ecological functions of the region's river systems are not degraded. Develop or enhance intergovernmental coordination strategies that will result in a cooperative approach toward the management, preservation, and protection of the region's wetlands and waterways, with special emphasis on those which cross jurisdictional boundaries.

Ms. Cherie Trainor, Coordinator

September 7, 2000

Page 2.

Policy 4.8.11: Reserve an upland buffer zone adjacent to wetlands, lakes, river, streams, springs and sinks as a water quality, quantity, and habitat protection buffer within which primary and secondary impacts to the wetland from activities such as drainage, filling, pesticide application, excavation, and construction are restricted. Define these buffer zones and the limits of all impacts to each feature's and buffer's function in a coordinated effort lead by local governments with assistance from the water management districts and the Department of Environmental Protection and Community Affairs.

Policy 4.12.8: Consider utility line rights-of-way and abandoned railroad rights-of-way for nature trails, bicycle paths, and wildlife passageways.

No comments were received from Sumter County.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Sincerely,



Vivian A. Whittier
ICR Procedural Coordinator

/vaw

Enc.



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix N-2

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

"Dedicated to making Florida a better place to call home"

JEB BUSH
Governor

STEVEN M. SEIBERT
Secretary

October 11, 2000

Mr. Thomas J. Litwiler
Fletcher & Sippel
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

RE: Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and
Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of Intent to File
Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) - Sumter and
Lake Counties, Florida
SAI: FL200008280616C

Dear Mr. Litwiler:

The Florida State Clearinghouse, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has coordinated a review of the above-referenced project.

Based on the information contained in the notification of intent and the enclosed comments provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the above-referenced project is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program.

In addition, comments received from the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council, noting that the project is consistent with its Strategic Regional Policy Plan, are enclosed for your review and consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this notification. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Cherie Trainor, Clearinghouse Coordinator, at (850) 414-5495.

Sincerely,

Ralph Cantrall, Executive Director
Florida Coastal Management Program

RC/cc

Enclosures

cc. Vivian Whittier, Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

2555 SHUMARD OAK BOULEVARD • TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA 32399-2100
Phone 850 488 8466/Suncom 278.8466 FAX 850 921.0781/Suncom 291.0781
Internet address: <http://www.dca.state.fl.us>

CRITICAL STATE CONCERN FIELD OFFICE
2796 Overseas Highway, Suite 212
Marathon, FL 33050-2227
(888) 368-3681

COMMUNITY PLANNING
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(904) 498-2222

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(904) 498-2222

HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(904) 498-2222

SEP-27-2000 14:45

FL DEPT AGRIC & CONS

ESD 488 0853 P.06

DATE: 08/29/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000

SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
HATED
State
Transportation

Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

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Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2565 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(904) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(904) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

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☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Jack P. Dodd, Planner
Division of Forestry
Forest Resource Planning
& Support Services Bureau
3125 Conner Blvd., Mail Stop C23
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

Division/Bureau: _____

Reviewer: _____

Date: _____

9-27-00

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AUG 27 2000

FL DEPT AGRIC & CONS
FTR/ASU L. J.

State

DATE: 08/28/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000

SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
HATED
State
Transportation

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

OPB POLICY UNITS

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State of Florida Clearinghouse

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AUG 30 2000

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Florida State Clearinghouse

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☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

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☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Division/Bureau:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Reviewer:

BRIAN BARNETT

Date:

9/1/00

Y: State

DATE: 08/28/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000

SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

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St. Johns River WMD

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ached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida
Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized
the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are
required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's
concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production
Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a
consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such
projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an
analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board -
Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment -
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification
of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment
Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No 2X) -
Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

Department of Community Affairs

2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard

Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)

(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Division/Bureau:

Reviewer:

Date:

EOG / OTTED

M. Blakely

Area 31. 2000



An Equal
Opportunity
Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-6759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)
SUNCOM 578-2070

Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7862 (FL only)
SUNCOM 572-6200

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34609-6899
(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)
SUNCOM 628-4150 TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)
World Wide Web: <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us>

Venice Service Office
115 Corporation Way
Venice, Florida 34292-3524
(941) 486-1212 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)
SUNCOM 526-6900

Lacanto Service Office
3800 West Sovereign Path
Suite 226
Lacanto, Florida 34461-8070
(352) 527-8131
SUNCOM 867-3271

September 25, 2000

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

RECEIVED
SEP 27 2000

Subject: Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket Number AB-325 (Sub-Number 2X) - Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties
SAI#: FL200008280616C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The staff of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has conducted a consistency evaluation for the project referenced above. Consistency findings are divided into four categories and are based solely on the information provided in the subject application.

FINDING	CATEGORY
x	Consistent/No Comment
	Consistent/Comments Attached
	Inconsistent/Comments Attached
	Consistency Cannot be Determined Without an Environmental Assessment Report/Comments Attached

This review does not constitute permit approval under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes, or any rules promulgated thereunder, nor does it stand in lieu of normal permitting procedures in accordance with Florida Statutes and District rules.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in the District's Planning Department at extension 4421.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Quinn
Government Planning Coordinator

SPONTY: State

Page:

DATE: 08/28/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000
SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
HITTED
State
Transportation

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

X Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

OPB POLICY UNITS

Environmental Policy/C & ED

ed document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida
Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized
of the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
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Intermodal Surface Transportation Board -
Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment -
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification
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Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) -
Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

RECEIVED
SEP 27 2000

Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

State of Florida
Federal Consistency Florida Clearinghouse

☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

On:

Division/Bureau: SWFWMD

Reviewer: [Signature]

RECEIVED
AUG 31 2000
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
SWFWMD

COUNTY: State

Message:

rec'd 8/31/00

1744

✓ 8/26

DATE: 08/28/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000

SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
OTTED
State
Transportation

Southwest Florida WMD
X St. Johns River WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

RECEIVED
OCT 03 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Each document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida
Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized
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Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
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Intermodal Surface Transportation Board -
Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment -
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification
of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment
Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) -
Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

RECEIVED
OCT 02 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- ☐ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
☒ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

By:

Division/Bureau:

Reviewer:

Date:

SJR WMD / OPP

K. G.

9/26/00



COUNTY: State

Message:

DATE: 08/28/2000
COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000
CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000
SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

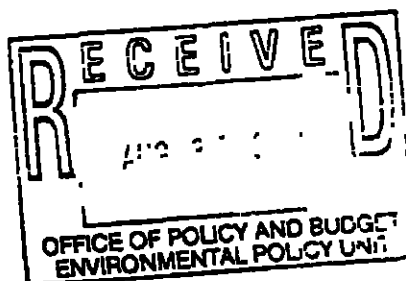
Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
OTTED
State
Transportation

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

OPB POLICY UNITS

X Environmental Policy/C & ED



RECEIVED
SEP 01 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

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Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

- ☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Federal Consistency

- ☐ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Division/Bureau:

Reviewer:

Date:

OPB-Env. Policy
M. Ranges
8/30/00

UNFL # 70-59-00-FMRP

**FLORIDA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE
RPC INTERGOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION
AND RESPONSE SHEET**

RECEIVED AUG 31 2000

SAI #: FL200008280616C

DATE: 08/28/2000

COMMENTS DUE TO CLEARINGHOUSE: 09/27/2000

AREA OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: COUNTY. State

☐ FEDERAL ASSISTANCE ☒ DIRECT FEDERAL ACTIVITY ☐ FEDERAL LICENSE OR PERMIT ☐ OCS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company -
Notification of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No 2X) - Sumter and Lake Counties,
Florida.

ROUTING:

RPC

X Withlacoochee RPC
E Central FL RPC

PLEASE CHECK ALL THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BELOW FROM WHICH COMMENTS HAVE BEEN
RECEIVED; ALL COMMENTS RECEIVED SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RPC'S CLEARINGHOUSE
RESPONSE PACKAGE. IF NO COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED, PLEASE CHECK "NO COMMENT"
AND RETURN TO CLEARINGHOUSE.

COMMENTS DUE TO RPC: 09/18/2000

____ Lake County

RECEIVED
SEP 18 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

COMMENTS: _____

IF THE RPC DOES NOT RECEIVE COMMENTS BY THE DEADLINE DATE, THE RPC SHOULD CONTACT
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE THE STATUS OF THE PROJECT REVIEW PRIOR TO
FORWARDING THE RESPONSE PACKAGE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE.)

NOTES: 9/14/00: Project is consistent with SRPP. Applicant needs to be
aware of goals and policies as noted in our September 7, 2000, response
SAI #: FL200008100568C)

CONCERNS OR COMMENTS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT (INCLUDING ANY RPC
COMMENTS) SHOULD BE SENT IN WRITING BY THE DUE DATE TO THE CLEARINGHOUSE.
PLEASE ATTACH THIS RESPONSE FORM AND REFER TO THE SAI # IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS REGARDING THE ATTACHED PROJECT, PLEASE CONTACT THE STATE
CLEARINGHOUSE AT (904) 922-5438 OR SUNCOM 272-5438.



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

February 7, 2008

Mr Michael J. Barron, Jr., Attorney at Law
Fletcher & Sippel, LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2832

RE: Surface Transportation Board - Florida Midland Railroad Company, Inc. -
Abandonment Exemption, Docket No AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X) - Sumter County, FL.
SAI # FL200802073995C (Reference SAI # FL200008280616C)

Dear Mr. Barron:

Florida State Clearinghouse staff, pursuant to Presidential Executive Order 12372, Gubernatorial Executive Order 95-359, the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C §§ 1451-1464, as amended, and the National Environmental Policy Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331-4335, 4341-4347, as amended, has reviewed the referenced abandonment notice.

Based on the information contained in the notice and comments previously provided by our reviewing agencies, the state has determined that the proposed federal action is consistent with the Florida Coastal Management Program. We recommend continued coordination with the Department's Office of Greenways and Trails, as the Department has expressed an interest in working with Sumter and Lake Counties to pursue acquisition of this corridor as a rails-to-trails project. Please contact Ms. Cindy Radford, Land Acquisition Administrator, at (850) 245-2052 or Cynthia.Radford@dep.state.fl.us for further information and assistance.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Ms. Lauren P. Milligan at (850) 245-2170.

Yours sincerely,

Sally B. Mann, Director
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

SBM/lm

cc: Jim Wood, DEP, OGT

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Michael W. Sole
Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental Protection
3900 Commonwealth Blvd., M.S. 49
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Sole:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

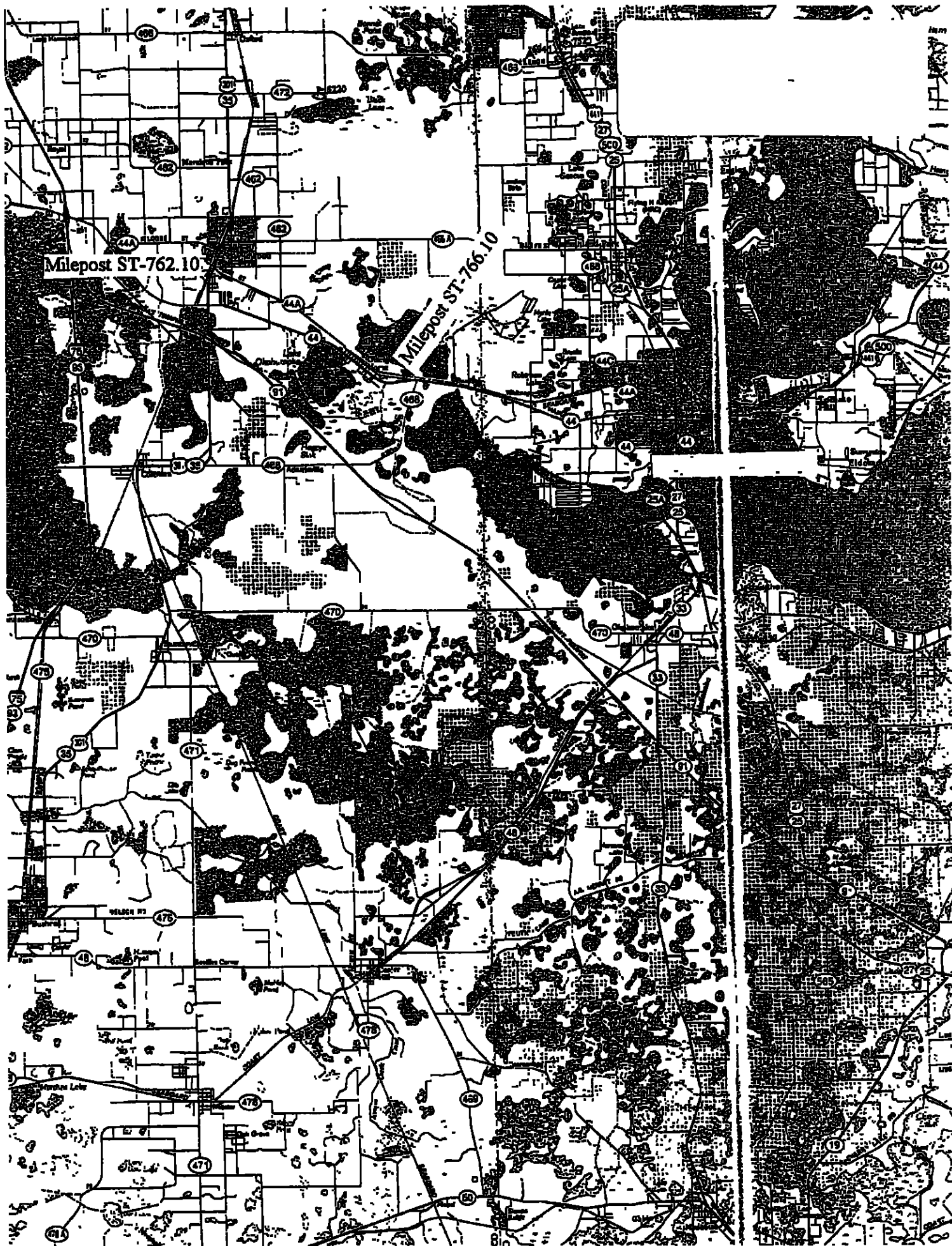
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX G



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Statton Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

Phone (312) 540-0500
Fax (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Ms. Virginia Wetherall
Secretary
Florida Department of Environmental
Protection
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-3000

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company -- Abandonment
Exemption -- In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Ms. Wetherall:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Ms. Virginia Wetherall

July 27, 2000

Page 2

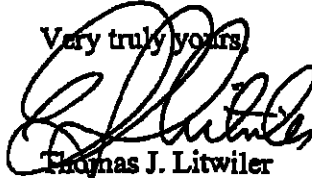
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure

Department of Environmental Protection

Margery Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

David B. Struhs
Secretary

Jeb Bush
Governor

18 September 2000

RECEIVED
SEP 20 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

Ms. Cherie Trainor
State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Blvd.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

RE: U.S. Department of Transportation/Notification of Intent to File Petition for
Abandoning the Wildwood to Leesburg Branch of the Florida Midland
Railroad Company, Sumter and Lake Counties
SAI: FL200008100568C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has completed its review of the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Notification of Intent to File a Petition for Abandoning the Wildwood to Leesburg Branch of the Florida Midland Railroad Company, in Sumter and Lake Counties. We find the project to be consistent with our authorities in the Florida Coastal Zone Management Program. The Department offers the following comments:

The railroad corridor proposed to be abandoned extends for approximately 13.23 miles between Lake Deaton and wetlands emptying into Lake Denham. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) databases and maps (see attached) indicate that endangered, threatened, or rare species such as the bald eagle, indigo snake, and Florida pine snake are also found nearby. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) has also identified numerous breeding bird colonies within one mile of the current railroad corridor. FNAI recommends that a site specific survey be conducted to determine the current presence or absence of listed species. In addition, the applicant will need to submit to the DEP Southwest District office a GIS-generated linear corridor so that they can verify the occurrence of any possible identified hazardous waste sites.

The Department's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) has expressed interest in working with Sumter and Lake Counties in pursuing acquisition of the abandoned railroad corridor as a rails-to-trails project. A petition recently filed by the Florida Midland Railroad Company indicates that the company is also willing to explore this possibility. The OGT contacts for Lake and Sumter Counties are Lindsey Benedict, and Marsha Rickman, respectively. Both can be contacted at 850/488-3701 concerning the greenways and trails acquisition process.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this project. If you require additional information, please contact me at 7-2231, ext. 111.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate Muldoon", written over a horizontal line.

Kate Muldoon

Office of Intergovernmental Programs

/kam

cc: file

Marsha Rickman

Lindsey Benedict

Dianne McCommons-Beck



Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

Charlie Crist
Governor

Jeff Kottkamp
Lt. Governor

Michael W. Sole
Secretary

February 20, 2008

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Fletcher and Sippel, LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

**RE: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Abandonment Exemption
Sumter County, Florida
(CORRECTION)**

Dear Mr. Barron:

The Department previously sent you a letter regarding the proposed abandonment; however, we were inaccurate in our characterization of the project site. Please accept this letter as our comments.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Intergovernmental Programs (OIP), has reviewed the above referenced project and offers the following comments:

The railroad corridor proposed for abandonment extends approximately four miles in Sumter County and traverses wetlands associated with Lake Deaton. The Florida Natural Areas Inventory (FNAI) databases and maps indicate that several threatened and endangered species and species of special concern such as the American bald eagle, indigo snake and Florida pine snake may be found near the site. An eagle nest exists within 1000-feet of the site. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FFWCC) previously identified numerous breeding bird colonies proximate to the current railroad corridor.

The applicant will need to submit to the DEP Southwest District Office (Mike Downs at 813-632-7600) a GIS generated linear corridor so that they can verify the occurrence of any possible identified hazardous waste sites.

Mr. Michael Barron, Jr.

Page 2 of 2

February 20, 2008

The Department's Office of Greenways and Trails (OGT) previously expressed interest in working with Sumter County in pursuing acquisition of the abandoned railroad corridor as a rails-to-trails project. If the railroad company would like to explore this issue further, the OGT contact is Marsha Rickman at (850) 245-2052.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposal. If I may be of further assistance, please call me at (850) 245-2182.

Sincerely,

Robin Branda

Robin Branda
Environmental Specialist III
Office of Intergovernmental Programs

cc: Jim Quinn, Program Administrator, OIP
Mike Downs, Southwest office

rsb

FLETCHER & SIPPET LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone. (312) 252-1500
Fax (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

J. I. Palmer, Jr.
Regional Administrator, Region 4
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center
61 Forsyth Street, S.W.
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Palmer:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

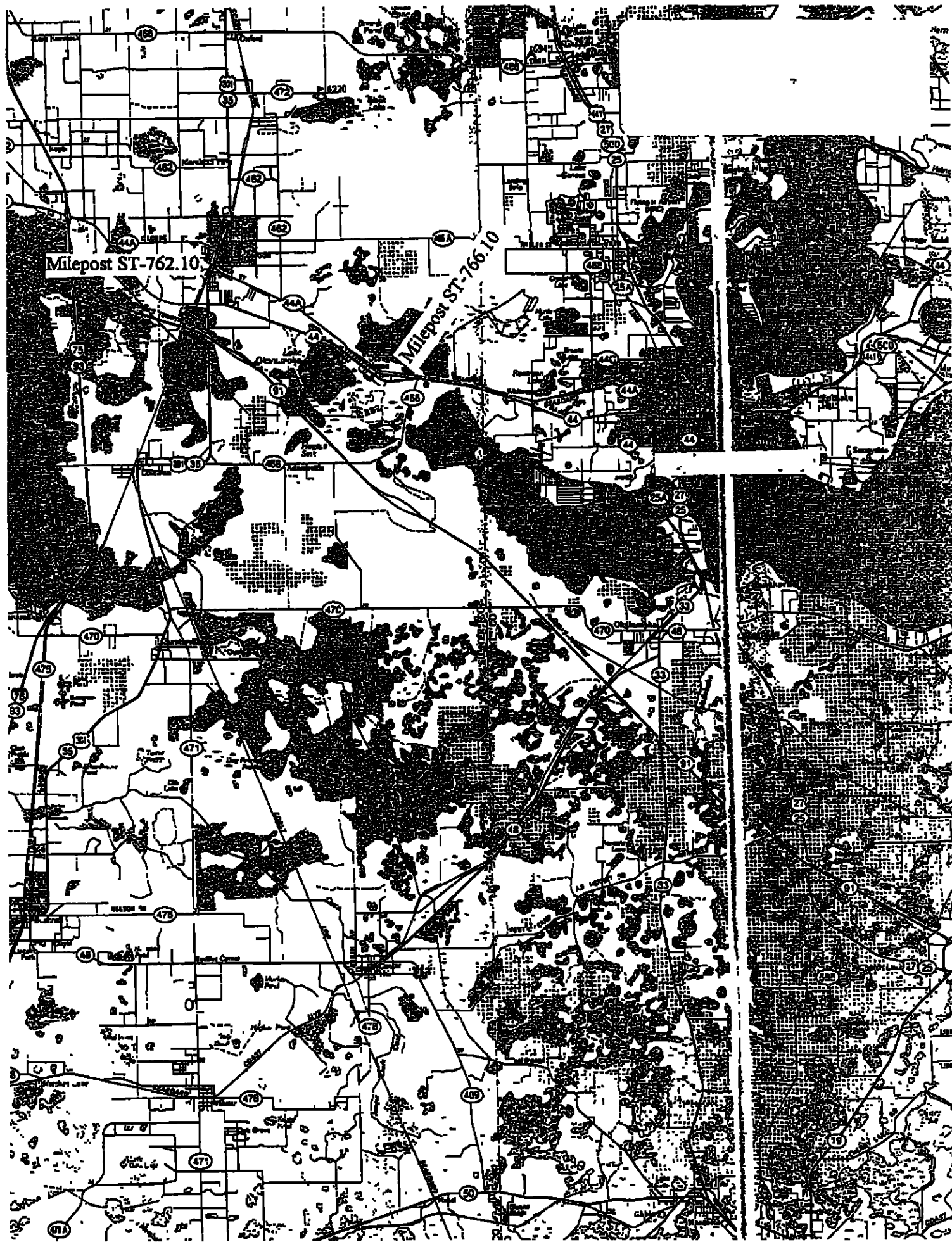
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX H



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix H

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540 9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone: (312) 540-3500
Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. John H. Hankinson
Regional Administrator, Region IV
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
100 Alabama Street, N.W.
Atlanta, GA 30313

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Hankinson:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

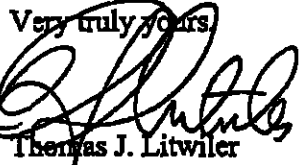
Mr. John H. Hankinson
July 27, 2000
Page 2

10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,

Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

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Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Rodney Barreto
Chairman
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission
Farris Bryant Building
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Barreto:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

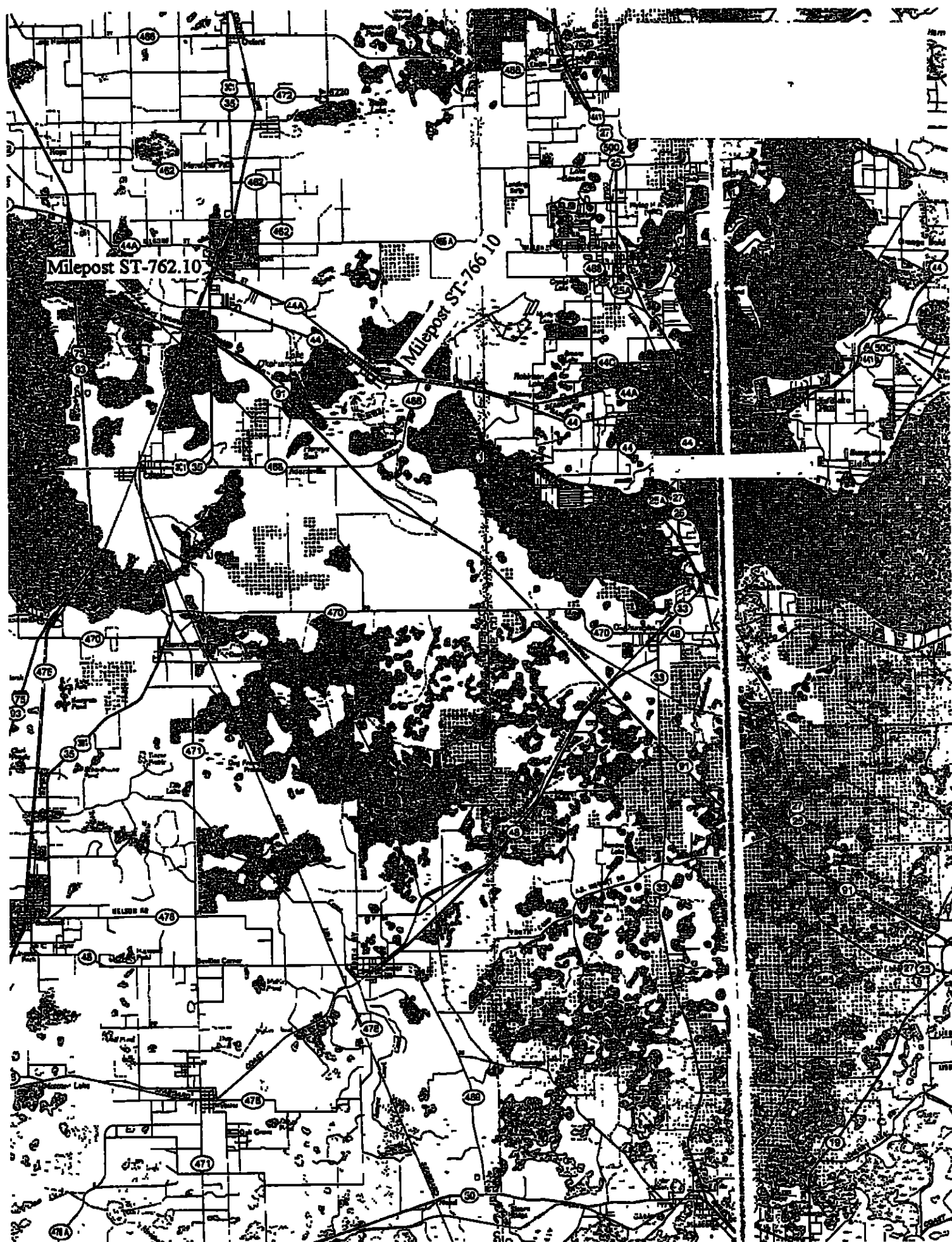
Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX I



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix I

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

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Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. Brian Barnett
Office of Environmental Services
Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish
Commission
620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1600

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Barnett:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Mr. Brian Barnett

July 27, 2000

Page 2

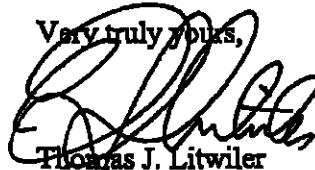
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL.pj

Enclosure

Y: State

DATE: 08/28/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000

SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv Comm
GTEP
State
Transportation

Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix I-1

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SEP 06 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

RECEIVED BY GFC

AUG 30 2000

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

This document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida
Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized
as follows:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

Impact/Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are
required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's
concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production
Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a
consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such
projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an
existing state license or permit.

Project Description:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board -
Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment -
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification
of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment
Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) -
Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

Florida State Clearinghouse

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

Department of Community Affairs

25 Shumard Oak Boulevard

Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100

(904) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)

(904) 414-0479 (FAX)

- ☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Division/Bureau:

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Reviewer:

BRIAN BARNETT

9/1/00



**Florida Fish
and Wildlife
Conservation
Commission**

Commissioners

Rodney Barreto
Chair
Miami

Brian S. Yablonski
Vice-Chair
Tallahassee

Kathy Barco
Jacksonville

Ronald M. Bergeron
Fort Lauderdale

Richard A. Corbett
Tampa

Dwight Stephenson
Delray Beach

Kenneth W. Wright
Winter Park

Executive Staff

Kenneth D. Haddad
Executive Director

Victor J. Heller
Assistant Executive
Director

Karen Ventimiglia
Deputy Chief of Staff

**Office of Policy and
Stakeholder
Coordination**
Mary Ann Poole
Director

(850) 410-5272
(850) 922-5879 FAX

*Managing fish and wildlife
resources for their long-
term well-being and the
benefit of people.*

620 South Meridian Street
Tallahassee, Florida
32399-1600
Voice: (850) 488-4676

Hearing/speech impaired:
(800) 955-8771 (T)
(800) 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

February 12, 2008

Michael J. Barron, Jr., Esq.
Fletcher and Sippel LLC
29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920
Chicago, IL 60606-2832

Re: Abandonment Exemption [Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)], Florida Midland
Railroad Company, Sumter County

Dear Mr. Barron:

Commissioner Barreto received your letter and requested that I respond. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the proposed abandonment of the four-mile rail line between milepost ST-762 in Wildwood and ST-766 near Orange Home in Sumter County, Florida.

Our GIS staff analyzed the immediate area that you describe, plus a one-mile buffer on either side of the rail line, and found potential habitat for the eastern indigo snake and use by the bald eagle (both considered threatened by the State of Florida). There were no records of bald eagle nests within the area analyzed or indications that the eastern indigo snake occur in the immediate vicinity; therefore, we agree with your conclusion that there are no foreseen adverse effects to listed species. We do, however, recommend that the area to be affected by any associated activity be surveyed beforehand for gopher tortoises (also listed as threatened) and, if any burrows are found, that you contact Rick McCann, in our Division of Habitat and Species Conservation, to obtain an incidental take or relocation permit, as appropriate. You may email him at Rick.McCann@MyFWC.com or mail him at the address on the letterhead, at mailstation 2A.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Poole

Mary Ann Poole, Director
Office of Policy and Stakeholder Coordination

map
ENV 1

Florida Midland Railroad Company_1284

cc: FWC Commission Members
Rick McCann, FWC

FLETCHER & SIPPET LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

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www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
m.barron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Sam Hamilton
Regional Director
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd., Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

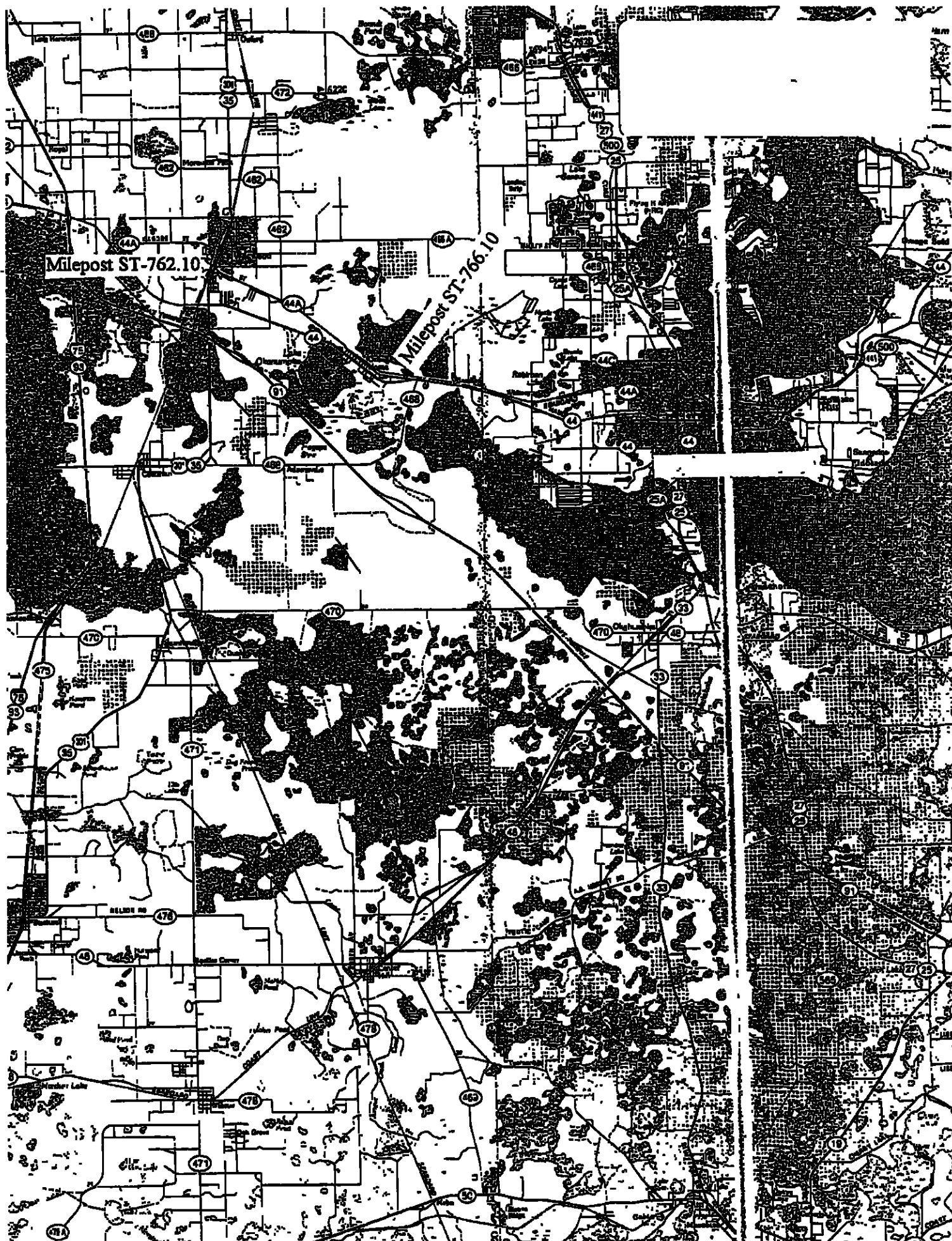
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX J



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix J

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

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(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone: (312) 540-0500
Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. Wesley Shockley
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 2676
Vero Beach, FL 32961-2676

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Shockley:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Mr. Wesley Shockley

July 27, 2000

Page 2

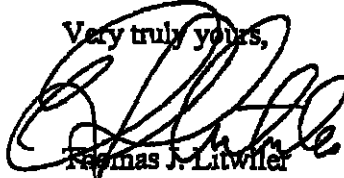
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure

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USPS/LE ST. PETE FL

TEL

Docket No AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix J-1

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
North Station Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60605-6721

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
litwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone: (312) 540-0500
Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com



FWS Log. No.

00-202(1st Det)

The proposed action is not likely to adversely affect resources protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) This finding fulfills the requirements of the Act.

Mr. Wesley Shockley
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 2676
Vero Beach, FL 32961-2676

With reference to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and National Environmental Policy Act (Sections 1301.6 and 1503.4), the Service has reviewed the proposed action for impacts to migratory birds and does not object to the project.

Don Palmer
for Dave Henkle
Field Supervisor

9/28/00
Date

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company -- Abandonment
Exemption -- In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Shockley:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. Your review of and comments on this project were previously requested by letter dated July 27, 2000.

In accordance with 49 C.F.R. §§ 1105.7(b) and 1105.11, we are providing for your information the enclosed Environmental/Historic Report which will accompany the petition for exemption and which describes the proposed action and any expected environmental or historic effects. The Report also includes a map of the affected area.

We are providing this report so that you may review the information that will form the basis for the Board's independent environmental analysis of this proceeding. If any of the information is misleading or incorrect, if you believe that pertinent information is missing, or if you have any questions about the Board's environmental review process, please contact the Section of Environmental Analysis at the following address:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001
(202) 565-1538

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

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www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Department of the Interior
National Center for Recreation and Conservation
National Park Service
1849 "C" Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20420
Attn: Chief, Land Resources Division

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

To Whom It May Concern:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

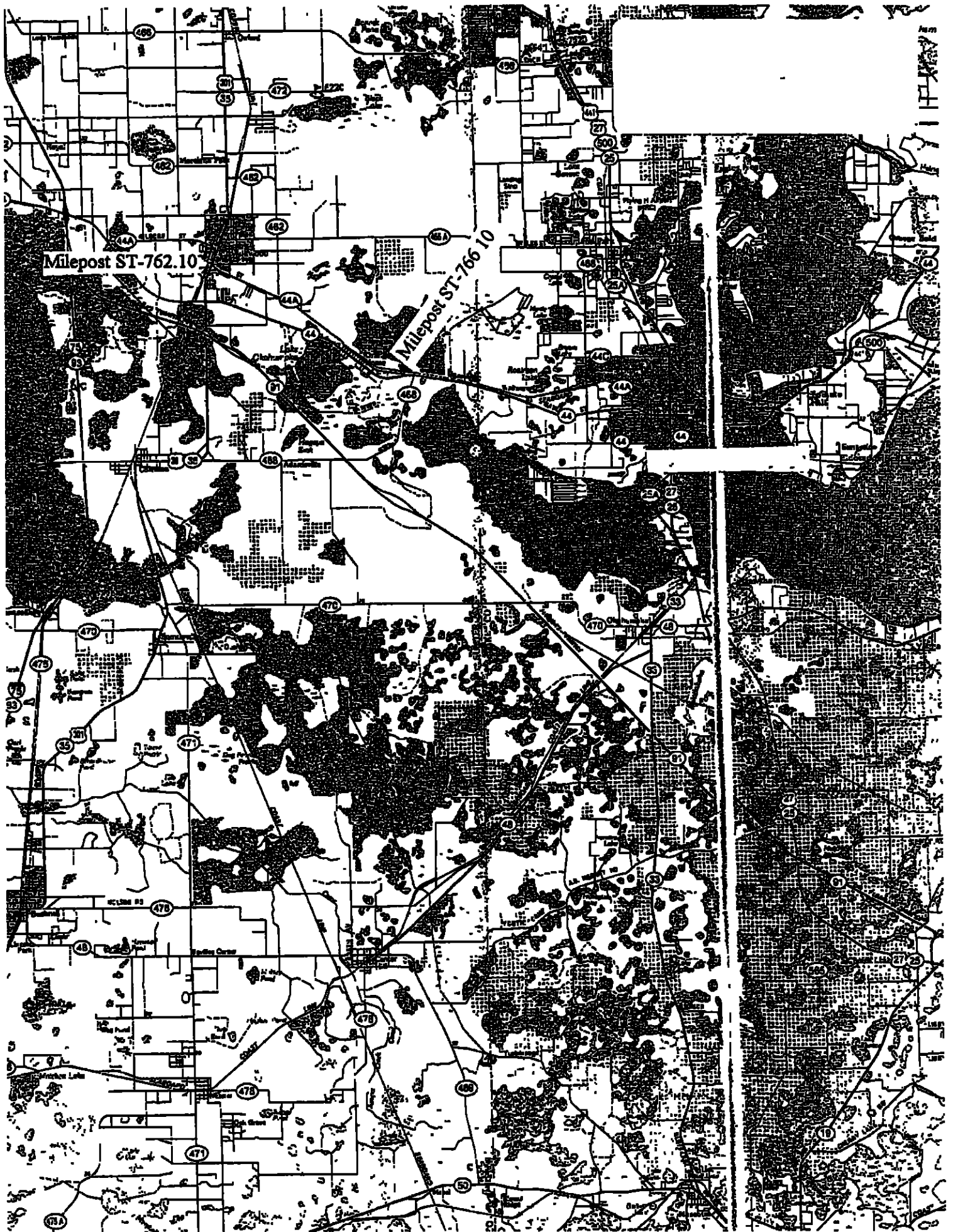
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX K



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix K

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

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Fax: (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
t.litwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. William D. Shaddox
Chief, Land Resources Division
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, N.E., Room 540
Washington, D.C. 20002

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Shaddox:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

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8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Mr. William D. Shaddox

July 27, 2000

Page 2

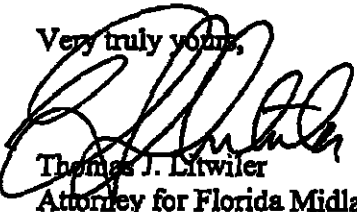
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,


Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Suite 920
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MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Rick McCleery
Ombudsman
Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. McCleery:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

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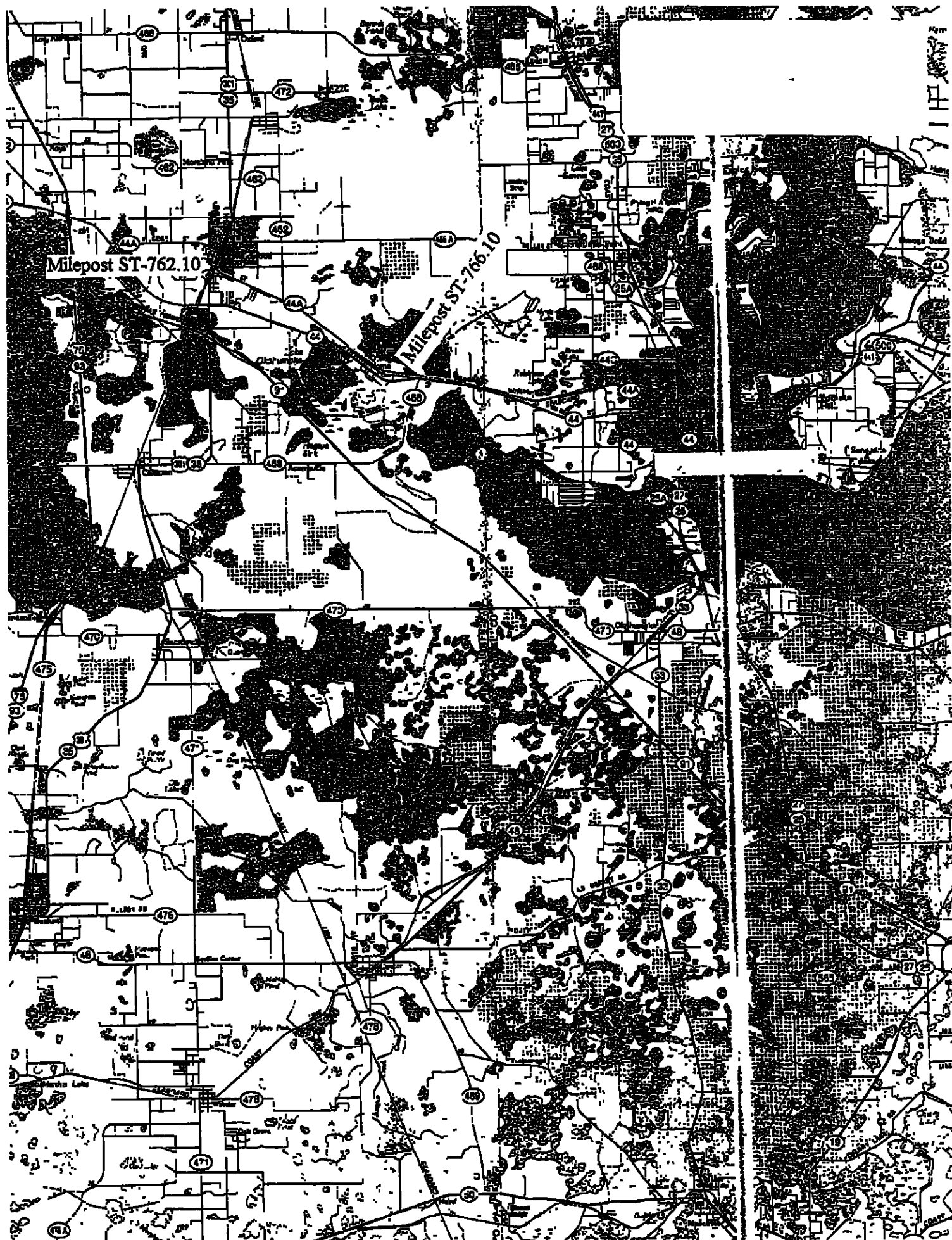
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures

APPENDIX L



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stearns Avenue
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www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540 9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. Mark D. Phelps, AICP
Government Planning Coordinator
Southwest Florida Water Management
District
2379 Broad Street
Brooksville, FL 34609-6899

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Phelps:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Mr. Mark D. Phelps, AICP

July 27, 2000

Page 2

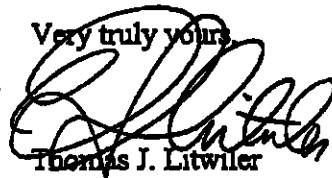
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure



An Equal
Opportunity
Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Tampa Service Office
7601 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-8759
(813) 985-7481 or
1-800-836-0787 (FL only)
SUNCOM 578-2070

Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7882 (FL only)
SUNCOM 572-8200

2375 Broad Street
(352) 796-7211
SUNCOM 828-41

World Wide Web:

Venice Service Office
115 Corporation Way
Venice, Florida 34292-3524
(941) 486-2212 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)
SUNCOM 526-6900

Lecanto Service Office
3600 West Sovereign Path
Suite 226
Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070
(352) 527-8131
SUNCOM 667-3271

Docket No AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix L-1

September 25, 2000

Ms. Cherie Trainor
Florida State Clearinghouse
Department Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2100

RECEIVED
SEP 27 2000

Subject: Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - ~~Railroad~~ Bed Reconstruction
and Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of
Intent to File Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket Number AB-
325 (Sub-Number 2X) - Leesburg Branch - Sumter and Lake Counties
SAI#: FL200008280616C

Dear Ms. Trainor:

The staff of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) has
conducted a consistency evaluation for the project referenced above. Consistency
findings are divided into four categories and are based solely on the information
provided in the subject application.

FINDING	CATEGORY
x	Consistent/No Comment
	Consistent/Comments Attached
	Inconsistent/Comments Attached
	Consistency Cannot be Determined Without an Environmental Assessment Report/Comments Attached

This review does not constitute permit approval under Chapter 373, Florida Statutes,
or any rules promulgated thereunder, nor does it stand in lieu of normal permitting
procedures in accordance with Florida Statutes and District rules.

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in
the District's Planning Department at extension 4421.

Sincerely,

Joseph P. Quinn
Government Planning Coordinator

COUNTY: State

DATE: 08/29/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000

SAI#: FL200008280616C

Page:

STATE AGENCIES

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

OPB POLICY UNITS

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
NOTED
State
Transportation

X Southwest Florida WMD
St. Johns River WMD

Environmental Policy/C & ED

Attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida
Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized
one of the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F).
Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are
required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's
concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production
Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a
consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such
projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an
analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board -
Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment -
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification
of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment
Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) -
Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

RECEIVED
SEP 27 2000

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-5438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

☒ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

Federal Consistency Florida Clearinghouse

☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau:

SWFWMD

Reviewer:

J. Quinn

RECEIVED
AUG 31 2000
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
SWFWMD

COUNTY: State

Message:

rec'd 8/31/00

1744

✓ 8/28

DATE: 08/28/2000

COMMENTS DUE DATE: 09/27/2000

CLEARANCE DUE DATE: 10/12/2000

SAI#: FL200008280616C

STATE AGENCIES

Agriculture
Community Affairs
Environmental Protection
Fish & Wildlife Conserv. Comm
OTTED
State
Transportation

WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICTS

Southwest Florida WMD
X St. Johns River WMD

OPB POLICY UNITS

Environmental Policy/C & ED

RECEIVED
OCT 03 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

attached document requires a Coastal Zone Management Act/Florida Coastal Management Program consistency evaluation and is categorized one of the following:

Federal Assistance to State or Local Government (15 CFR 930, Subpart F). Agencies are required to evaluate the consistency of the activity.

Direct Federal Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart C). Federal Agencies are required to furnish a consistency determination for the State's concurrence or objection.

Outer Continental Shelf Exploration, Development or Production Activities (15 CFR 930, Subpart E). Operators are required to provide a consistency certification for state concurrence/objection.

Federal Licensing or Permitting Activity (15 CFR 930, Subpart D). Such projects will only be evaluated for consistency when there is not an analogous state license or permit.

Project Description:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Board - Railroad Bed Reconstruction and Abandonment - Florida Midland Railroad Company - Notification of Intent to File Petition for Abandonment Exemption - Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) - Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida.

RECEIVED
OCT 02 2000

State of Florida Clearinghouse

To: Florida State Clearinghouse
Department of Community Affairs
2555 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-2100
(850) 922-6438 (SC 292-5438)
(850) 414-0479 (FAX)

EO. 12372/NEPA

Federal Consistency

- ☐ No Comment
☐ Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

- ☒ No Comment/Consistent
☐ Consistent/Comments Attached
☐ Inconsistent/Comments Attached
☐ Not Applicable

From:

Division/Bureau

Reviewer

Date:

SJR WMD / OPP
K. J. [Signature]
9/11/00

STATE OF FLORIDA
ST. JOHNS RIVER WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
AUG 31 2000
MAIL CENTER



An Equal
Opportunity
Employer

Southwest Florida Water Management District

Bartow Service Office
170 Century Boulevard
Bartow, Florida 33830-7700
(863) 534-1448 or
1-800-492-7882 (FL only)
SUNCOM 572-8200

Lecanto Service Office
Suite 226
3600 West Sovereign Path
Lecanto, Florida 34461-8070
(352) 527-8131

2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)
SUNCOM 628-4150 TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)
On the Internet at: WaterMatters.org

Sarasota Service Office
6750 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, Florida 34240-9711
(941) 377-3722 or
1-800-320-3503 (FL only)
SUNCOM 531-6900

Tampa Service Office
7801 Highway 301 North
Tampa, Florida 33637-8759
(813) 885-7481 or
1-800-836-0797 (FL only)
SUNCOM 578-2070

Judith C. Whitehead
Chair, Hernando

Neil Combes
Vice Chair, Polk

Todd Pressman
Secretary, Pinellas

Jennifer E. Closehey
Treasurer, Hillsborough

Thomas G. Dabney
Sarasota

Patricia M. Glass
Manatee

Helen B. McGee
Hillsborough

Ronald E. Oakley
Pasco

Sally Parks
Pinellas

Maritza Rivera-Forino
Hillsborough

Patsy C. Symons
DeSoto

David L. Moore
Executive Director

William S. Bessy
General Counsel

February 12, 2008

Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Fletcher & Sippel, LLC
Attorneys at Law
29 North Wacker Drive
Chicago, ILL 60606-2832

Subject: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company
Abandonment Exemption
Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Barron:

The Planning Department of the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) has completed a review of the above project and makes recommendations for the inclusion of the abandoned railroad corridor as part of a regional pedestrian/bicycle trail in Sumter and Lake Counties. As an alternative transportation option, a pedestrian/bicycle trail would be less-intensive development when compared to the projected residential and commercial growth in the surrounding region. The District has established Minimum Flows and Levels for Lake Okahumpka and Lake Deaton in the eastern area of the proposed railroad corridor abandonment to limit water withdrawals and prevent significant harm to the water resources of the area and the related natural environment.

Additionally, a pedestrian/bicycle facility is consistent with a number of planning objectives adopted by the Comprehensive Plans for the cities of Wildwood and Leesburg, the counties of Sumter and Lake, the strategic regional policy plans of the Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council (WRPC) and the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council (ECFRPC), and the long-range planning goals of the Lake-Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

The proposed railroad corridor abandonment has the potential to help connect Wildwood and the southern areas of The Villages mixed use development (currently projecting 46,072 residential homes in Sumter County) to the City of Leesburg and the Leesburg Greenway Trail Network in Lake County. Utilizing a \$3.88 million Florida Communities Trust grant, the City of Leesburg included \$1.29 million in cash to purchase six (6) miles of abandoned railroad corridor, or approximately 553 acres.

Mr. Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Florida Midland Railroad Company
February 12, 2008
Page 2

(For your information, the City of Wildwood submitted a Florida Department of Transportation Enhancement Grant Application in 2005 for the purchase of 28.6 acres of right-of-way from U.S. 301 to C.R. 139 as future land use for a pedestrian/bicycle facility. This grant application sought \$403,150 for approximately 1.07 miles of the 4-miles of track now requested for abandonment and once used by the Florida Midland Railroad and the CSX Transportation Company)

The proposed railroad corridor abandonment is located in the Withlacoochee River watershed, which encompasses parts of Marion, Levy, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Polk counties, and all of Sumter County. There are no jurisdictional wetlands or flood plains that would affect local construction or operational use of a pedestrian/bicycle trail facility. A preliminary review of SWFWMD's 2006 Land Use/Land Cover GIS layer shows less than five (5) acres of wetlands within 50 meters (164.04 feet) of the existing right-of-way. The entirety of the area falls within the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Flood Zone X (no flood insurance is required).

If you have any questions or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me in the District's Planning Department at extension #4421

Sincerely,



Douglas K. Sanders,
Staff Planner

cc. James Stevens, City Manager of Wildwood (via fax @ 352.330.1338)
Jay Evans, City Manager of Leesburg (via fax @ 352.326.6619)
Thomas Burke, Lake-Sumter MPO (via fax @ 352 315.0993)
Bruce Day, WRPC (via fax @ 353.732.1319)
Fred Milch, ECFRPC (via fax @ 407 623.1084)
Rick McCleery, SWFWMD
Corey Denninger, SWFWMD

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

David S. Hobbie
Division Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District, Regulatory Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, Florida 32232-0019

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Hobbie:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

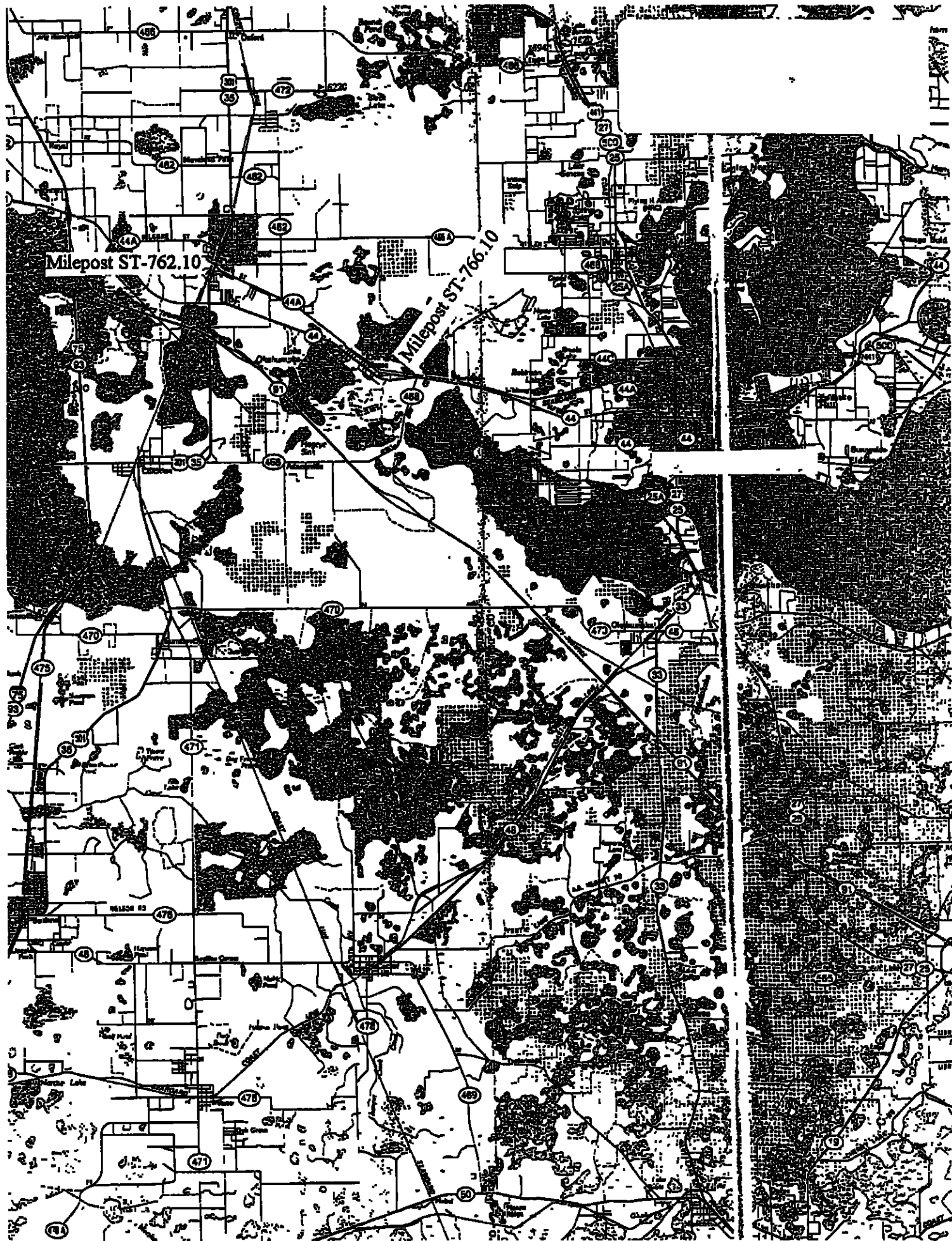
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX M



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

Phone (312) 540-0500
Fax (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. Ronald H. Silver, C.E.P.
Chief, West Permits Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District, Regulatory Division
P.O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company - Abandonment
Exemption - In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Silver:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL .LLC

Mr. Ronald H. Silver, C.E.P.

July 27, 2000

Page 2

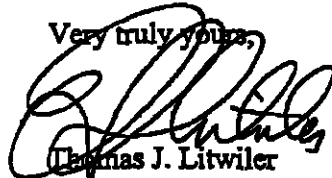
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

29 North Wacker Drive
Suite 920
Chicago, Illinois 60606-2832

Phone: (312) 252-1500
Fax: (312) 252-2400
www.fletcher-sippel.com

MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

David Doyle
Senior Geodesist, Spatial Reference System Division
National Geodetic Survey
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282

Re: **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Doyle:

Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

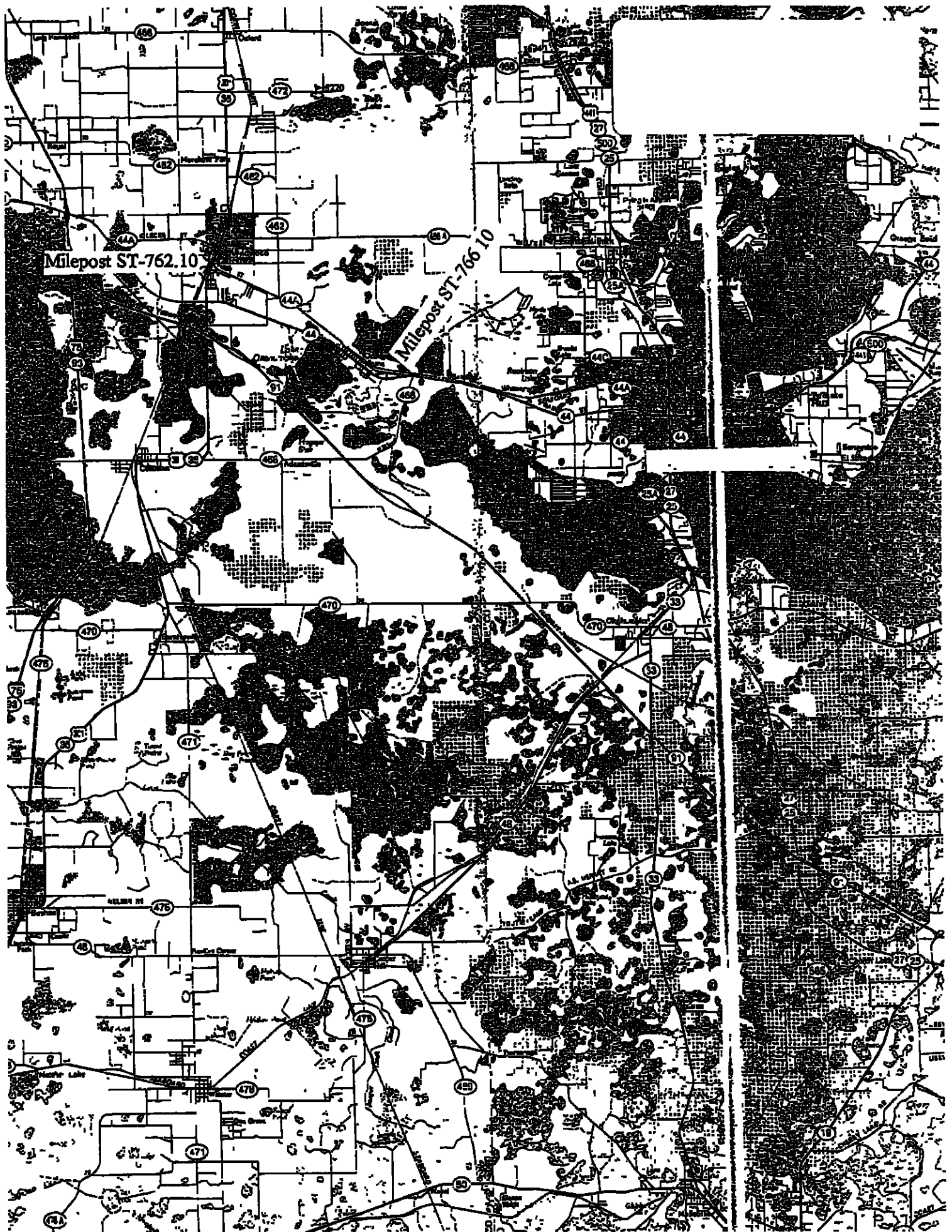
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX N



FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stearns Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tjlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

Phone (312) 540-0500
Fax. (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. Edward J. McKay
Chief, Spatial Reference System Division
National Geodetic Survey
National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration
1315 East West Highway, Room 8813
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company – Abandonment
Exemption – In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. McKay:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may assist us in identifying any potential effects it may have on the following to the extent they are within your area of expertise or authority):

1. Regional or local land use plans;
2. Regional or local transportation systems and patterns, including alternative transportation modes;
3. Energy consumption and efficiency;
4. Air emissions and noise levels;
5. Bodies of water and overall water quality under applicable federal, state or local standards;
6. Designated wetlands and 100-year flood plains;
7. Endangered or threatened species and critical habitats;

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Mr. Edward J. McKay

July 27, 2000

Page 2

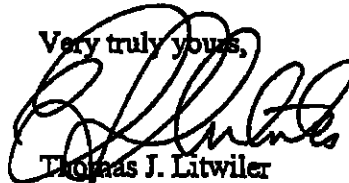
8. Wildlife sanctuaries or refuges and national or state parks or forests;
9. Existing or potential safety hazards;
10. Coastal Zone Management Areas; or
11. The need for permits under Section 402 or 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. §§ 1342, 1344).

Because of the limited nature of the proposed abandonment, we foresee no adverse environmental effects. We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:pj

Enclosure



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
National Geodetic Survey
Silver Spring Maryland 20910-3282

August 8, 2000 Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix O-1

Ms. Elaine K. Kaiser
Chief, Section of Environmental
Analysis
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Kaiser:

The area in question on the map attached to a letter of July 27, 2000, from Mr. Thomas J. Litwiler, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, for the proposed abandonment of 13.23 miles of Florida Midland Railroad Co. rail line, referred to as the Leesburg Branch, from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida, STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X), has been reviewed within the scope of National Geodetic Survey (NGS) responsibility and expertise and in terms of the impact of the proposed actions on NGS activities and projects.

As a result of this review, nine geodetic station markers have been identified that may be affected by the proposed abandonment; a listing of these markers is enclosed. Additional information about these station markers can be obtained via the Internet or NGS CD-ROM. A fact sheet for these two retrieval methods is enclosed. If there are any planned activities which will disturb or destroy these markers, NGS requires not less than 90 days' notification in advance of such activities in order to plan for their relocation.

If further information is needed for these geodetic station markers, my address is NOAA, N/NGS2, Room 8813, 1315 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3282, telephone: 301-713-3191, fax: 301-713-4324, e-mail: Ed.McKay@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

Edward J. McKay

Edward J. McKay
Chief, Spatial Reference
System Division

Enclosure

cc: T. Litwiler, Fletcher & Sippel LLC,
N/NGS1x1 - R. Taylor



FLORIDA MIDLAND RAILROAD COMPANY
SUMTER AND LAKE COUNTIES, FLORIDA

DOCKET NO. AB-325 (SUB-NO. 2X)

9 GEODETIC CONTROL MARKS IN PROPOSED ABANDONMENT AREA

PID	DESIGNATION	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
AK0017	V 57	N284835	W0815146
AK0016	U 57	N284847	W0815229
AK1396	M 11	N284908	W0815343
AK0012	M 14	N284908	W0815520
AB5357	Q 431	N284858	W0815315
AK0010	R 57 RESET 1958	N284922	W0815801
AK0015	T 57	N284908	W0815343
AL6092	C 57	N285120	W0820241
AL6094	P 57	N285107	W0820155



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MICHAEL J. BARRON, JR.
(312) 252-1511
mbarron@fletcher-sippel.com

February 1, 2008

Frederick Gaske
Director, Division of Historical Resources
Florida Department of State
500 South Bronough Street, Suite 415
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

Re **Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 4X)**
Florida Midland Railroad Company—Abandonment Exemption—
In Sumter County, Florida

Dear Mr. Gaske:

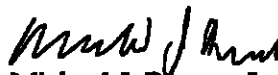
Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") a Notice of Exemption for approval to abandon a 4-mile line of railroad starting at milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, to milepost ST-766.10 near Orange Home, all in Sumter County, Florida.

FMID had previously filed for abandonment for this segment (See STB Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)), but chose not to consummate it. FMID is now intending to abandon this segment and will file a new abandonment proceeding at the STB, including an updated environmental/historic report. FMID is consulting you or your agency to get input on its updated report.

For your convenience, we have enclosed a map of the proposed abandonment for reference as well as copies of previous correspondence with you or your agency concerning the earlier environmental/historic report.

Because of the nature of the proposed action, we foresee no adverse effects. Nevertheless, we would appreciate your review and any comments you may wish to offer. We would appreciate a written response as soon as possible so that we may include it in the environmental report which we will file with the STB. We intend on filing and serving the report in two weeks.

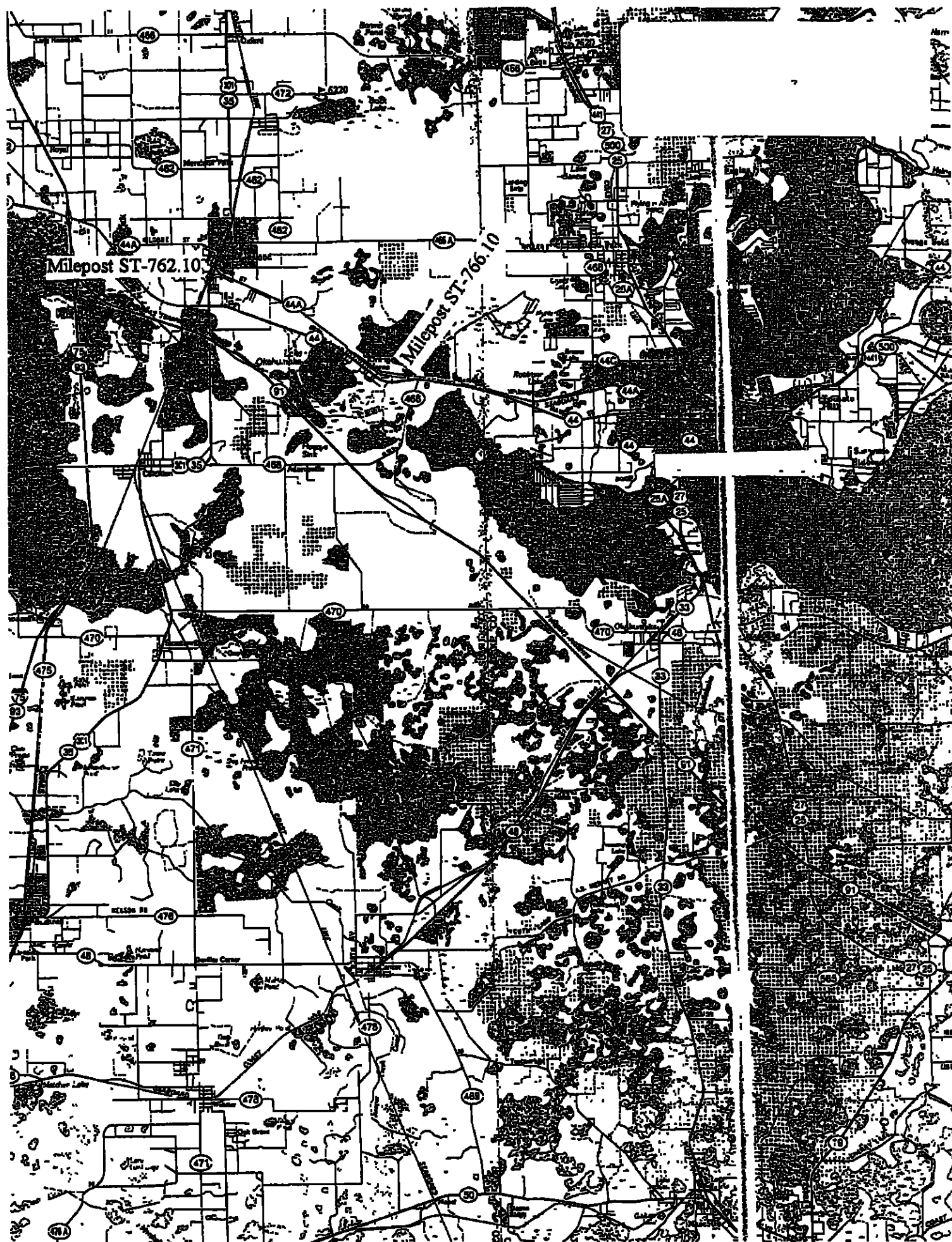
Sincerely,



Michael J. Barron, Jr.
Attorney for Florida Midland Railroad Company

Enclosures.

APPENDIX O



Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix P

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

Phone (312) 540-0500
Fax (312) 540-9098
www.fletcher-sippel.com

Thomas J. Litwiler
(312) 540-9440
tlitwiler@fletcher-sippel.com

July 27, 2000

Mr. George W. Percy
Director, Division of Historical Resources
Florida Department of State
500 South Bronough Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0250

Re: Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Florida Midland Railroad Company -- Abandonment
Exemption -- In Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Percy:

On or about September 5, 2000, Florida Midland Railroad Company ("FMID") expects to file with the Surface Transportation Board a petition for exemption for the abandonment of FMID's line of railroad, referred to herein as the Leesburg Branch, extending from milepost ST-762.10 in Wildwood, Florida to milepost ST-773.71 in Leesburg, Florida and from milepost AS-800.76 to milepost AS-802.38 in Leesburg, a total distance of approximately 13.23 miles in Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida. The petition for exemption will be filed pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502 and 49 C.F.R. § 1121. A map showing the location of the line to be abandoned is attached for your reference. After abandonment, rail and track materials will be removed from the line.

In accordance with the Board's environmental and historic preservation regulations, 49 C.F.R. § 1105.8, we are advising you of the proposed abandonment of the Leesburg Branch so that you may determine whether this action will have any effect on any historic structures of sites. There are no railroad buildings, bridges or structures of any kind on the line to be abandoned, and thus none will be adversely affected. FMID also is unaware of any historic sites involved in the proposed abandonment.

We would appreciate your review of the proposed action and provision of any comments you may have in a written response as soon as possible. Any written comments should reference Docket No. AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X) and be sent to the undersigned, as counsel for FMID, with a copy to:

Surface Transportation Board
Section of Environmental Analysis
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 504
Washington, DC 20423-0001

FLETCHER & SIPPEL LLC

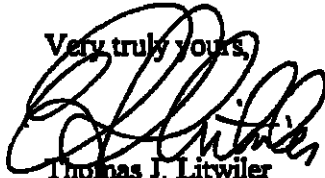
Mr. George W. Percy

July 27, 2000

Page 2

In accordance with the Board's regulations, a copy of the Environmental/Historic Report prepared in connection with this abandonment will be forwarded to you at least twenty days before FMID's petition for exemption is filed at the Board. If you have any questions or need additional information in the meantime, please feel free to contact me at 312-540-9440. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. Kind regards.

Very truly yours,



Thomas J. Litwiler
Attorney for Florida Midland
Railroad Company

TJL:tl

Enclosure

DIVISIONS OF FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Office of the Secretary
Office of International Relations
Division of Elections
Division of Corporations
Division of Cultural Affairs
Division of Historical Resources
Division of Library and Information Services
Division of Licensing
Division of Administrative Services



Docket No AB-325 (Sub-No. 2X)
Environmental/Historic Report
Appendix P-1

Department of Law Enforcement
Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles
Department of Veterans Affairs

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Katherine Harris
Secretary of State
DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Mr Thomas J. Litwiler
Fletcher & Sippel LLC
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 3125
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6721

September 20, 2000

RE. DHR Project File No. 2000-06218
Florida Midland Railroad Company Abandonment - Leesburg Branch
Docket No AB-325 (SUB-NO. 2X)
Sumter and Lake Counties, Florida

Dear Mr. Litwiler.

Our office has received and reviewed the above referenced project in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act of 1966* (Public Law 89-665), as amended in 1992, and 36 C.F.R., Part 800: *Protection of Historic Properties*. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is to advise and assist federal agencies when identifying historic properties (listed or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places), assessing effects upon them, and considering alternatives to avoid or reduce the project's effect on them.

It is the opinion of this agency that because of the project nature it is considered unlikely that historic properties will be affected. Therefore, based on the information provided, it is the opinion of this office that no historic properties will be affected by this undertaking.

If you have any questions concerning our comments, please contact Scott Edwards, Historic Preservation Planner, at 850-487-2333 or 800-847-7278. Your interest in protecting Florida's historic properties is appreciated.

Sincerely,


Janet Snyder Matthews, Ph.D., Director
Division of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer

JSM/Ese

xc: Surface Transportation Board

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<input type="checkbox"/> Historic Pensacola Preservation Board (904) 595-5985 • FAX: 595-5989	<input type="checkbox"/> Palm Beach Regional Office (561) 279-1475 • FAX: 279-1476	<input type="checkbox"/> St. Augustine Regional Office (904) 825-5045 • FAX: 825-5044	<input type="checkbox"/> Tampa Regional Office (813) 272-3843 • FAX: 272-2340